



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
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**HANSARD**

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The Honourable **Samuel Gargan**, Speaker

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

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

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

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Good afternoon. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Morin.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 43-13(5): Minister Absent From the House

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise Members that the Honourable Stephen Kakfwi will be absent from the House for the remainder of the week to attend the First Canadian Indigenous Arts Festival in Scottsdale, Arizona. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Ministers' statements. Mr. Dent.

Minister's Statement 44-13(5): The Healthy Children Initiative

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, last year, we announced the establishment of the Healthy Children Initiative, a joint project of the departments of Health and Social Service and Education, Culture and Employment. Through this initiative, communities receive money to enhance existing programs for

young children and their families, or to develop new ones. Mr. Speaker, \$3.75 million has been set aside each year for 1997-98 and 1998-99. Of this, \$2.6 million is earmarked for communities, while the remainder is used to fund regional early childhood officers, college training programs, resource development and research and evaluation.

To date this fiscal year, almost \$2.3 million has been allocated to communities. This money supports more than 100 early childhood projects. I would like to report on some of the interesting and valuable community projects that have received funding under this program. In Fort McPherson, the TI'oondih Healing Society has received \$6,500 to host a parenting workshop for two weeks. This workshop built on one that was held last year in the community. Aklavik, Paulatuk, Sachs Harbour and Tuktoyaktuk have combined resources to help young children improve their speech and language skills. These communities are working in close cooperation with regional health and social services boards. A community member will work with the regional speech and language pathologist to learn the different types of activities that help children improve speech and language skills. This community member will then be able to provide local support to young children and their families. Funding for this project was \$24,000.

Other funding has included \$13,000 to the hamlet of Pangnirtung to provide a parenting skills course; \$9,000 to Pairijait Tigumivik in Iqaluit for a breast-feeding workshop; and \$9,000 to the Susy Husky Health Centre in Aklavik to provide a workshop on fetal alcohol effect and syndrome. Regional support for the Healthy Children Initiative is important if communities are to fully benefit from it. I am pleased to announce that early childhood officers are now working in the Baffin, Inuvik and Kitikmeot/Keewatin regions. Officers should soon be working in the North and South Slave regions.

The vision of the Healthy Children Initiative is healthy children born to healthy parents, growing up in strong and supportive families in caring communities. It will form an important part of a comprehensive agenda for children and youth that government departments will be working cooperatively to develop during the coming year. This initiative represents an investment in our most important resource - the children of the Northwest Territories. The project gets started this month. Regional interagency committees will soon begin the process of considering funding applications for the next fiscal year for the healthy children initiative. I encourage each of you to support the

healthy children projects in your constituencies. Let us work together to ensure a healthy future for our young people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Ministers' statements. Ms. Thompson.

Minister's Statement 45-13(5): Community Empowerment Progress

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

(Translation) Mr. Speaker, today I would like to share with Members information on how the community empowerment initiative is progressing. First Mr. Speaker, I want to assure Members that community empowerment continues to focus on community development.

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Most importantly, community empowerment involves the participation of community councils, aboriginal organizations, local boards and agencies, government departments, community residents, and organizations, all working together towards a common community vision and goals. By working cooperatively, community organizations can build a strong foundation for their community. They can build community consensus and make decisions together on priorities for their community. Our job in government is to work with communities and support them to empower themselves. (Translation ends) As a result, communities will be more self-reliant and independent. They will have control and will be empowered to make their own decisions. That, Mr. Speaker, is the objective of community empowerment.

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs has been working closely with communities and other government departments, by providing tools, training and support so that community governments have what they need to grow, develop and empower themselves. We are helping communities develop community plans, assess local capacity and identify any training that is required. We are helping communities link their assessment results to community-based plans, training and development.

(Translation) Last November, I distributed to all MLAs a summary report on the many empowerment activities that are underway in each of the

communities. I would like to share with you a few examples of the successes communities have achieved so far:

-Thirty-two communities have developed community plans. This includes a clear vision of how they would like their community to be in the future and goals and strategies to guide their development from where they are now to where they would like to be.

-Twenty-two more communities are considering starting a community-based planning process.

-Twenty-six communities are completing human resource assessments. These detailed assessments help communities identify the skills they need in order to take on more responsibility, and also identify the type of training that is available and how to access it.

-Thirty communities have participated in senior administrative officer training. This training is provided by MACA through a partnership with the NWT Association of Municipal Administrators and provides SAOs with training that is needed so that they can handle more administrative responsibilities as their communities develop.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that the first visioning exercise that was directed by myself and the mayor of Arviat for the Keewatin region was recently completed in Arviat, with over 400 community residents participating. This, Mr. Speaker, is an excellent example of how working cooperatively can produce results in the communities. The hamlet of Arviat now has a vision to the year 2002 and can begin building the foundation for their community. I would like to congratulate the community of Arviat on this excellent achievement.. (Translation ends) In the west, several communities have completed similar exercises. What is so exciting about this work is that it brings the community together - not just the elected officials, boards and agencies but also the elders, the youth and the grassroots people.

Mr. Speaker, there is tremendous positive human potential in all of our communities. Our job is to help communities tap into their own potential and support their growth and development.

Mr. Speaker, the community empowerment initiative complements the creation of both new territories. It builds a solid foundation for stronger, healthier communities, while respecting and actively supporting aboriginal values of working together to achieve consensus, sharing of resources, self-sufficiency,

independence and greater community control and decision making.

We need strong community governments in order to have a strong territory. The strength of community governments will be essential for a successful Nunavut government. In the Western Territory, community empowerment focuses on developing capacity, creating vision and building strength by bringing all groups together at the local level, which will help prepare community residents to take on more responsibility including negotiated self-government agreements.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Members for their support for the community empowerment initiative. We need to keep working together so that the communities we represent can continue to grow and develop and achieve their potential. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Ministers' statements. Mr. Antoine.

Minister's Statement 46-13(5): Yellowknife Office Space Plan

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Mahsi ,Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce the implementation of the government's Yellowknife office plan.

As Members may know, there is currently a surplus of over 100,000 square feet of office space on the Yellowknife private real estate market. As well, the government has approximately 76,000 square feet of surplus space in its own inventory of owned and leased buildings, which results from our efforts over the past three years to develop a more effective and efficient government structure.

With the pending creation of two new territories on April 1, 1999, this government surplus is expected to increase to about 125,000 square feet by 1999, as departments further consolidate their staff in shared space, and reconfigure themselves to reflect the needs of the new western territory.

Taking those factors into account, Public Works and Services, in cooperation with all government departments, has developed a plan designed to satisfy the government's need

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for office space in Yellowknife up to the year 2002 through a combination of short, medium and long-term leases.

At the same time the plan is designed to minimize any significant impacts on the Yellowknife real estate market and economy.

The principles on which the plan is based include:

- reducing the government's ownership of office space in Yellowknife;
- ensuring effective management of the lease inventory to avoid excess costs;
- maximizing private sector involvement in the provision of GNWT office space in Yellowknife; and
- doing everything possible to protect the viability of the Yellowknife real estate market, and hence, reduce any serious impacts of the city's economy.

As a result, we were able to develop a plan to reduce our office space inventory from 441,000 square feet to 351,000 square feet.

Mr. Speaker, by the year 2002 the government will:

- sell a variety of government buildings through a public and open process, starting with the Tapwe Building currently occupied by a variety of government funded advocacy organizations. The organizations will be provided with alternate office accommodation;
- sell the regional offices of RWED which are located on the Great Slave Lake waterfront;
- sell the Laing Building with the proviso that it cannot be leased back to government as office space. This will allow for the alternate use of a major facility in the downtown core and remove 60,000 square feet of office space from the Yellowknife market;
- lease from the private sector, through a competitive process, a replacement office space for the 36,000 square feet of government office space lost through the sale of the Laing Building;
- bring together staff of each department so that they occupy adjacent leased space; and

- finally, the government will gradually reduce space as needs decline over a period of six years, by not renewing selected leases when they expire.

Mr. Speaker, this plan will initially result in increased costs for tenant improvements. However, this initial investment will be paid back in reduced costs over a six-year period. I am pleased to be able to present this office plan, as we believe it is a sound business decision that balances the operational needs of the government, while maintaining a viable commercial real estate market in Yellowknife. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Rabesca.

**ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

Member's Statement 161-13(5): Diavik Mines/Dogrib Treaty 11 Cooperation Agreement

**MR. RABESCA:**

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Diavik Diamond Mines and Dogrib Treaty 11 Council for the announcement that was made on Tuesday, February 3, 1998. I feel this cooperation agreement should demonstrate to other companies that if you talk to the aboriginal groups at the start of a venture and show they are an important part of the overall venture, success can and will be achievable.

It is important in this day and age that companies wanting to venture onto the traditional lands, must respect and cooperate with the aboriginal groups, to ensure a promising future and a healthy working relationship between all parties involved. It would be nice to see this government and the communities working in the same manner as the aboriginal groups and industry. With that I am sure that a long and healthy working relationship will grow from this cooperation agreement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Miltenberger.

Member's Statement 162-13(5): Traditional Garments Worn in the House

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have long admired the traditional garments worn by some of my colleagues in the Assembly. For example my colleague from Yellowknife North, Mr. Krutko, yourself Mr. Speaker, the Premier, Mr. Kakfwi, and of course Mr. Antoine. I believe as well as Mr. Enuaraq and Mr. Evaloarjuk. I believe they have added a really clear northern flavour and placed a unique stamp on our Assembly. I am proud today to rise wearing a traditional moose hide jacket from the riding of Thebacha.

--Applause

For all of us know that this requires tremendous skill and patience to design and put together a jacket of this nature. I would like to acknowledge the fine work and traditional skills of a very good lady and a respected elder of Fort Smith, Ms. Jane Dragon.

--Applause

I believe that she has outdone herself and has done the constituency of Thebacha a great credit with the creation of this unique jacket. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Krutko.

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Member's Statement 163-13(5): Income Support Workers

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to speak about the plight of the income support workers in my constituency, and I suppose right across the Northwest Territories. The funding formula that the department has implemented to provide the funding for the community to administer the program and pay income support workers, including to do justice to the task that they are supposed to perform. Mr. Speaker I know of one part-time income support worker who has had as many as 35 people waiting to see them in one day. There is no way that an income support

worker could even hope to address any of the concerns or questions risen by the clients in 6.8 minutes. I strongly believe that this government has failed the people they are supposed to help by not giving the communities the resources and administration dollars for the Income Support Program. Mr. Speaker, under the present system the funding is based on the number of actual clients and not on the number of people you see over a course of a day. As a result, Mr. Speaker, the time spent with individuals is inadequate. The time allowed is inadequate and the income support workers cannot perform their jobs to their satisfaction.

Mr. Speaker, the income support workers are burning out and quitting under the stress of not being able to do what the income support worker is supposed to do which is to get people off of welfare and into leading positive lives. These income support workers have no time to assess the individuals backgrounds or skills on developing a plan to deliver and allow the clients to proceed in supporting themselves. For example, Mr. Speaker, if a trapper just needs a small amount... Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to seek unanimous consent to concluded my statement.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Member for Mackenzie Delta is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement do we have any nays?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Nay.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Sorry, Mr. Krutko. You do not have unanimous consent to conclude your statement. Members' statements. Mr. Enuaraq.

Member's Statement 164-13(5): The Need for a Larger Hamlet Office in Broughton Island

**MR. ENUARAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, the hamlet of Broughton Island has stressed to me the need for a large hamlet office. I have been to Broughton Island many times and I agree. The staff of the hamlet office are very hard working and need more space to accommodate additional staff and an increased workload.

Importantly, the office has been showing its age. Operating and maintenance costs are increasing each year. For example, the roof also leaks. It has been leaking for the last couple years but there has not been any money to fix it. This needs to be repaired as soon as possible. The leaks present a danger to the staff and their computers. These substandard conditions are unacceptable, Mr. Speaker.

The community of Broughton Island has grown since the hamlet office was first completed 18 years ago. The office was originally designed for a smaller staff. Now there is a lot more staff than offices. Many of the staff have to share already overcrowded offices.

The hamlet office provides not only general administration for the community, but houses the lands office, employment assistance office, a finance officer to name a few services and staff. With community empowerment devolving additional responsibilities each year, more positions are expected to be relocated to the hamlet office. The hamlet office in Broughton Island needs more office space and their roof fixed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Mr. Enuaraq. Ministers' statements. Mr. Ootes.

Member's Statement 165-13(5): Transfer of Federal Jobs North

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this government needs to spend more time and energy on job creation. Creating jobs is the key to improving our northern economy. For the past 18 months, I have advocated the transfer to the north of federal positions that deal with northern issues, a move that could bring hundreds of positions to various positions in the north.

Eight months ago I moved a motion, seconded by Mr. Picco, Member for Iqaluit and passed by this House, calling on the Premier, Mr. Morin, to pursue that transfer, and ask the federal government to compile a comprehensive listing of all such civil servants in the federal departments.

The Premier commented on this issue last week and says the transfer is being handled under the northern accord negotiations. Negotiations for an accord have been going on for at least a decade. It is a complex,

time-consuming issue that may or may not ever be finalized to our satisfaction. My point is, why not pursue the job transfers separately? Have them moved to the north and then if a northern accord is reached, this government could take over responsibility for the employees. In the meantime, we would get the economic spin-off of those positions, generating taxes and benefits. We need those jobs and influx of money, Mr. Speaker, throughout the north. Bringing high level, high skill jobs north would accomplish two things. It would make the decision-makers live in the places affected by their decisions, and it would stimulate the northern economy. That, Mr. Speaker, is far more important in the short-term. Pursuing the Holy Grail we commonly call the northern accord is commendable but very difficult. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

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**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Ningark

Member's Statement 166-13(5): Community Empowerment Training Requirements

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when the honourable Minister for MACA, Ms. Thompson, talks about the community empowerment progress, I have listened with interest and I would like to commend the department and the Minister for a job well done in the area of planning.

By the same token, Mr. Speaker, I represent three communities, two with less than 1,000 people and one with less than 1,500. I think there is a requirement for training at the community level in the smaller communities across the territories. Mr. Speaker, a few years ago, this government used to have a program in the area of certification for the senior administrative officer that would allow every community to have a certified administrative staff. By the same token, that would also maximize the local hiring. Secondly, when the community is getting into community empowerment, we want to make sure the community is ready in the area of policing and peace keeping.

In some small communities there are times when the RCMP are required to go to other communities, or to escort a person out of the community and that left the

by-law officer in control of the community. When the by-law officer is not confident or qualified in that area, we could have a consequence whereby that person maybe subject to questioning by the court of this jurisdiction.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will be asking the Minister of MACA what type of training there is for the community to ensure that we have qualified people working for the municipalities in the smaller communities. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement 167-13(5): Health Care Concerns

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday we heard from Members of this House who attended a meeting with the NWT Health Care Association to discuss health care in the Northwest Territories. I also attended that meeting and it affirmed some of the concerns I have had for quite some time. Mr. Speaker, regarding health care in our communities, I hear our government telling us that all is adequate. Yet I see health board leaders resigning or being removed. I see doctors leaving, adding to the unfilled positions already in the territories. The political leaders, particularly in the Keewatin, and the NWT Medical Health Care Association saying health care is in a crisis. Yet the government says all is well. Who do I believe? One thing for sure is, Mr. Speaker, you cannot have smoke without fire.

The remuneration and benefits paid to health care workers, as we are told, are not good enough to attract quality health care professionals. Why should a nurse move to the Northwest Territories when they can make the same amount of money in southern Canada where they do not have to pay outrageous rents as they do in some of our communities? Also, they are the front line workers who are subject to the abuse when the breakdown of the system comes to where it is at.

Mr. Speaker, what do we do? We have to start by solving a shortage of health care professionals that we have in the Northwest Territories before we build additional hospitals or health care centres. We have to invest in recruitment, ongoing training and

professional development for the health care workers. We have to recreate public confidence. I like the idea of accrediting all hospitals and health care centres and I understand the Minister is working towards that. I think more importantly, we have to instill territorial-wide health care standards so anywhere in the Northwest Territories, people know what the rules are and what is covered.

We have to face the fact that new hospitals and health care centres as proposed through the P3 initiative without the adequate and qualified staff to operate them are nothing more than monuments to satisfy our political egos. Remember a new hospital serves no purpose if there are no qualified health care professionals to run it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Picco.

Member's Statement 168-13(5): Questions Posed in the House

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to speak to the issue of questioning in this House. As Ordinary MLAs, it is our job to provide a counter to the Cabinet and to support the government in its job as it directs government business. Politicians quickly think twice when a tough issue presents itself. For example, abortion or capital punishment. The same sex benefits vote caused such a situation in this Assembly earlier. We are elected to take a stand. The public does not want Members to back away from something because it is a controversial. In this House we have seen that with questions on the Keewatin health care, the Aurora Fund or the Lahm Ridge tower issues.

The whole idea of a Legislative Assembly or democracy is the right of free speech and the ability as an elected Member to ask questions. Many times questions have been answered in committee, but those meetings are not open to the public and thus it is accepted that a question put to the government on a particular topic may be to allow the public the opportunity to hear the answer for the first time.

Mr. Speaker, I have been criticized in the past by some of my colleagues for asking too many questions. I have been told that the things I have said outside this House could be construed as libellous. Mr. Speaker, I have been told that things published in

the paper, although not directly attributed to me, could have been slanderous. I have been told that certain Internet forum writers could be me and the statements made by those writing might be a case of defamation.

Mr. Speaker, for the past couple of months, I have questioned many of the things I might have said. Mr. Speaker, I have

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thought twice about asking certain questions in this House because it might upset or cause me problems. Mr. Speaker, in speaking to one of my colleagues and my friends back home, they informed me that I was experiencing a case of libel chill. Mr. Speaker, it could prove fatal. Mr. Speaker, I have tried to be honest in my questions. I have tried to offer constructive criticism and will continue to raise questions and represent my community to the best of my abilities. Mr. Speaker, libel chill may be fatal, but not representing my constituents or the people of the Northwest Territories by asking questions and helping keep government accountable is also fatal. That, Mr. Speaker, is not acceptable. Thank you.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Barnabas.

Member's Statement 169-13(5): The Need for a Community Hall in Arctic Bay

**MR. BARNABAS:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to make a Member's statement. In my constituency of Arctic Bay, there should be a community hall. There is a community hall that was built in 1985. It also is a place where the school children gather. We have never had a community centre in Arctic Bay. We did have one but it was closed down because it was never renovated. The population of Arctic Bay is getting larger and the community centre is not large enough to accommodate them. I want to let the Ministers know that we would like to have a community hall in Arctic Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Erasmus.



Member's Statement 170-13(5): Recruitment and Retention of Medical Staff

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the recruitment and retention of medical staff in the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I spoke about the state of the medical services in the NWT and the fact that we had met with the NWT Medical Association who had indicated that our greatest resource is our staff. Mr. Speaker, this is not the first time the medical association has brought this up. They had sent us a lengthy document last year in which they indicated how difficult it was to recruit and retain doctors.

Also, the nursing association recently sent us a letter and they attached a survey they had done with their nurses. In it they indicate that nurses are dedicated professionals who try to do a good job and are committed to their work and patients. The cost of living, the isolation, the long working hours, the stress and the housing situation are the main reasons why nurses refuse to relocate in the north. Experienced nurses choose to stay in the south where they are able to live a normal life. Better pay and benefits would go a long way to getting better nurses who want to stay and be part of the community. Nurses need to be kept up to date to be marketable or just to be competent at their present workplace. Providing ongoing educational opportunities and a proper orientation would go a long way in retaining nurses.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is very important as these professionals are indicating that we need to be able to recruit and retain staff. Changing medical staff means inconsistent medical services. This affects the general public's confidence in our health system. Mr. Speaker, later today, I will be asking the appropriate Minister questions in this area. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS**

Return To Oral Question 204-13(5): Sale and Lease Arrangements of Lahm Ridge Tower

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a return to an oral question asked by Mrs. Groenewegen, the

honourable Member for Hay River, on February 4, 1998.

The agreement to the Lahm Ridge Tower lease extension was not conditional upon the sale of the building to the new owners. The lease extension negotiations were concluded in August, 1997. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Ningark.

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

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is an honour to recognize Michael Miltenberger. Thank you.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Ms. Thompson.

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Stephen Mapsalak, mayor of Repulse Bay; Paul Sammurtok, SAO of Chesterfield Inlet; and Sheldon Dorey, SAO of Repulse Bay. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Pat Thomas, NWTTA, along with her partner in crime, Mr. Miltenberger.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Ningark.

**ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS**

Question 213-13(5): Certification of Senior Administrative Officers

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will be speaking in my language. (Translation) Thank you, Mr.

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Speaker. My question is directed to my good friend the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. She made a Member's statement and I appreciate her saying that there will be community empowerment. I would also like to thank her for having planned and trained the communities in regard to community empowerment. I would like to ask a question to her about certification programs for SAOs that the SAOs will be able to work in the communities with a certification, especially in the smaller communities. I want to ask the Minister if the senior administrator certification is going to continue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 213-13(5): Certification of Senior Administrative Officers

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for asking the question. The SAOs and the hamlet councils are training at this time. I think there are about 12 or 14 who are almost finished with their training in the Baffin region. They are from various communities. I just recently went over there to give them their certificates. They have ongoing training as well to get their certification from Municipal and Community Affairs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Ningark.

Supplementary To Question 213-13(5): Certification of Senior Administrative Officers

**MR. NINGARK:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, supplementary to the same Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs in regard to community empowerment, it is in regard to training as well. I think the by-law officers should have to take some ongoing training because the job they do is very

important especially in communities where there are no RCMP or when the community police have to go out of town, they take over the job of the RCMP. Are the by-law officers trained as well? Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Ms. Thompson.

Further Return To Question 213-13(5): Certification of Senior Administrative Officers

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the smaller communities we have a lack of RCMP constables and the by-law officers have a hard job in the community doing the job of the RCMP. The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs works with the RCMP to train the by-law officers in each community. They train them to do some jobs that the RCMP officers do. I am not quite sure how many there are right now taking the training, but they do take training. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 213-13(5): Certification of Senior Administrative Officers

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary in the area of Community Empowerment Program progress, Mr. Speaker, the honourable Minister talks about the community having the ability to operate within the empowerment program. I believe and I think all of us believe that having support from a region in the area of administration to ensure that there is a monitoring program, to ensure that communities comply with the administration requirement, will we, even after we have the empowerment, have the help from the region at the community level? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Ms. Thompson.

Further Return To Question 213-13(5): Certification of Senior Administrative Officers

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we will. We are assisting all of the communities. We are doing monitoring. We have community empowerment regional staff that are available any time to visit the communities and to assist these communities who need them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Enuaraq.

Question 214-13(5): Broughton Island Hamlet Office Repairs

**MR. ENUARAQ:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under Members' statements, I made a Member's statement about the hamlet offices that have a lack of space as far as office space is concerned. The roof of the hamlet office at the present time which is occupied is leaking and I would like to ask the honourable Minister Manitok Thompson, whether her department would have some funding to repair this office that is in much need of repairing? This is the hamlet office of Broughton Island. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 214-13(5): Broughton Island Hamlet Office Repairs

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the hamlets are taking on more and more responsibilities, their offices are established along with the responsibilities that are given. For example, if the housing association has an office and the hamlet takes it over, the housing association can continue to do their work in their present office space. The concern from Broughton Island has been brought to the attention of my officials. The people who work under the community empowerment in Iqaluit will be informed of this problem. We work together on these types of issues to come up with answers to these types of issues. We will be working closely together with the community empowerment group or team. I will consult with my officials as well in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

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**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Barnabas.

Question 215-13(5): Hamlet Control of Local Boards

**MR. BARNABAS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of MACA on her statement today. She was talking about community empowerment progress. I would like to ask the Minister if the hamlets are trying to take over the education boards and the health boards? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 215-13(5): Hamlet Control of Local Boards

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The answer is no. What we are trying to do as I have said, is that we are trying to do this in a team approach consensus style of communication between all departments, between all agencies in the community. The health boards will always be health boards if they want to be that way and education boards will be that way too. We are just trying to communicate with them at the same level, bring them to the same table and discuss issues with them, so we can find out the priorities of the communities and for the people that we care about in those communities. These different agencies have to start coming together and discussing the priorities of the community that they belong to. The education and health boards are agencies that we should be communicating with and working with. That is my approach with community empowerment. We are not trying to make them into a subcommittee. We are trying to work with them in this consensus style of community empowerment priority. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 215-13(5): Hamlet Control of Local Boards

**MR. BARNABAS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My supplementary question is, what role will the hamlets have to these boards? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Ms. Thompson.

Further Return To Question 215-13(5): Hamlet Control of Local Boards

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Each agency will have different roles. We recognize that. The boards have a role of educating the children, staffing the schools and also making sure that the education is ongoing. The hamlet has a different role. What we are trying to do is that the hamlets are trying to speak with these education boards and are working with them. That is the role of the hamlet. Sort of like a coordinating role trying to get all parties from the same community to work together and speak with each other, so we can ask each other what the priorities are for education facilities or programs, so that we can help each other out. The same people sometimes are on the same boards so the role of the hamlets...

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Ms. Thompson. You have answered the question. Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 216-13(5): Income Support Funding Formula

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. My understanding of the Income Support Program is that it is supposed to provide financial support and consulting services to help people examine their options, get off income support and become productive members of their communities. My question to the Minister is, does the current Formula Financial Agreement with the service provided take into account the actual workload of the income support workers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent.

Return To Question 216-13(5): Income Support Funding Formula

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Income Support Program workers' responsibility is first and foremost to determine whether or not someone qualifies for income support. The program has been modified recently to require people to make productive choices, in order to maintain their access to the program. The income support workers are not expected to be counsellors. Income support workers are intended to ensure that clients are in fact making productive choices. Those choices can involve a range of situations and will often require that the client work with someone else such as a social worker for counselling. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 216-13(5): Income Support Funding Formula

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister explain how the formula is calculated and distributed to different communities?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 216-13(5): Income Support Funding Formula

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If my recollection is correct, the formula is based on one full-time equivalent funding for every 2,000 cases. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

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Supplementary To Question 216-13(5): Income Support Funding Formula

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister tell me if that includes the numbers based on the clients the individual sees every day or is that only based on the actual individuals who are sponsored through this program?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 216-13(5): Income Support Funding Formula

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Mr. Speaker, I believe that figure is based on the number of people who qualify for the program. It would be counted as cases but I am not absolutely certain. I will investigate and advise the Member.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 216-13(5): Income Support Funding Formula

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the Minister willing to commit to re-examine the formula financial arrangements to ensure communities receive enough money to administer the Income Support Program so that the program can accomplish the goals that it is suppose to? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 216-13(5): Income Support Funding Formula

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. An evaluation of the program is an ongoing process. I believe I have already committed in this House that we would continue to evaluate the delivery of that program at the community level. Yes, we are prepared to work with communities to ensure that resources are adequate to deliver the program. It is important to restate the Income Support Program is a needs-based program with conditional access. People

qualify for the program based entirely on their income for a month and after a period of time have made productive choices. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Erasmus.

Question 217-13(5): Recruitment and Retention of Medical Staff

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services, and it is in the area of recruiting and retaining medical staff. Mr. Speaker, in my Member's statement, I had mentioned the fact that the Northwest Territories Registered Nurses Association had sent the MLAs copies of a letter that was sent to the Minister. In this letter, the NWTRNA indicates that they are currently participating in a steering group to develop a retention and recruitment plan for physicians, nurses and social workers. Could the Minister indicate whether he and his staff are involved on the steering group?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Ng.

Return To Question 217-13(5): Recruitment and Retention of Medical Staff

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the department is actively involved with that group as well as the professional associations, the medical association that we have on behalf of the physicians, the registered nurses' association on behalf of the nursing profession and the NWT Health Care Association. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 217-13(5): Recruitment and Retention of Medical Staff

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister explain how and when this steering group got started and

particularly if it was before the Keewatin health issue arose?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 217-13(5): Recruitment and Retention of Medical Staff

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it began, I believe, in 1996 as a broader human resource planning group which kicked out under way. Some of the things that were to be discussed is the preferred model of primary care delivery because a lot of our communities do not have physicians. A lot of communities are being serviced by nurse practitioners. There were some discussions about what roles those two groups would play. The aspect of the social workers not being represented by an organization or association was another issue. Things progressed but not at a rapid pace. What happened in 1997, as you know, there were some issues brought forward in respect to physician shortages throughout the territories, I believe raised by the Medical Association which flagged the issue of the need to maybe have some concentration on that area. It became apparent that some of the nursing positions are becoming vacant and not being filled on a permanent basis, but more on a contractual basis, so that again, brought up the need of that issue. There were different components that became accelerated as a result of circumstances that caused us to deal with the situation in a more timely fashion. I believe a lot of that took place, the actual acceleration of some of the work of these on a specific nursing position and social worker planning part, sometime late 1997 or early fall of 1997, around that time, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

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Supplementary To Question 217-13(5): Recruitment and Retention of Medical Staff

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the Minister is in a position to do so, would he elaborate on some of the aspects in this plan?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 217-13(5): Recruitment and Retention of Medical Staff

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as we know, the plan is almost finalized and ready for review. Obviously, there is some pay and benefit issues that might be a part of it. I am not at liberty to discuss that right now. I think some of the broader aspects of it are some of the professional development and professional support that the associations are requesting and specifically, the development of a potential pool of resources to be available in a central location to be able to provide relief when individuals are required to go out for training, for professional development, for holidays or in the circumstances where maybe a community is overwhelmed because of an outbreak of a certain condition that cause their staff to be working long and stressful hours. It is the development of some resources to support those types of needs is one big aspect of that in respect to professional development and ongoing needs. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 217-13(5): Recruitment and Retention of Medical Staff

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you. Mr. Speaker, could the Minister indicate approximately when the retention and recruitment plan for physicians, nurses and social workers will be out for the MLAs to have a look at?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 217-13(5): Recruitment and Retention of Medical Staff

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am hoping by the middle or late next week that I will have an opportunity to review the plan. Depending on the financial aspect of it, if there are some certain

requirements that have to be put forward and requested from the Financial Management Board, I would have to go through the Financial Management Board at some time to get approval on the financial aspects of that. Following that, then I would be prepared to table that in this Assembly. I am hoping by the week of the 16th, sometime during that week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 218-13(5): Health Board Staffing Problems

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Ng. A year ago, the health boards took over responsibilities for their staff for the recruitment and paying of them. At the same time, their wages along with all government employees at that time were rolled back in an effort to help out the deficit reduction plan. My question to the Minister is, did the department have any consideration at that time that the potential of cut backs would have the detrimental affect that it has had on the recruitment of staff and retention of staff? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 218-13(5): Health Board Staffing Problems

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we were aware that the nursing profession was under stress in respect to recruitment efforts of other jurisdictions, in respect to recruitment from Health and Welfare Canada who still provide the health care delivery for aboriginal peoples on reserves and who offered quite lucrative housing and vacation travel packages for their employees, Mr. Speaker. That was an ongoing concern and an ongoing impediment to some of the recruitment of nurses in the Northwest Territories, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 218-13(5): Health Board Staffing Problems

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Minister. You mentioned that you were aware of the some of the problems and potentials with this rollback. Did you advise the boards or what action did you take? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 218-13(5): Health Board Staffing Problems

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the boards are aware as the boards were at that time and continue to be doing the hiring for the nurses within their service area. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 218-13(5): Health Board Staffing Problems

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister says that he was aware of it. Does the Minister not have some and the department have some responsibility if they can see that there are potential problems, rather than just being aware of it? Is there not any action that they should be taking to ensure that

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the departments or the health boards do something about it to alleviate it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 218-13(5): Health Board Staffing Problems

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this problem is not unique to the Northwest Territories. It is a national problem. As the nurses' association have brought up to me and confirmed at a meeting prior to Christmas, there are a lot of international demands, particularly from the United States on the nursing profession in Canada and they are offering some very lucrative packages to recruit nurses to the United States. Couple that with the fact that a lot of the Canadian jurisdictions have gone to nurse practitioner models in a lot of their community health centres, the demand for those types of individuals is very high and it is not something that could have been resolved overnight. We have to look at it from a longer term perspective, of trying to develop, first of all, a northern workforce if at all possible. I know that is not an overnight solution, but it is a long-term solution that is sustainable for us. That is where we have been trying to focus some of our efforts, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Ootes.

Question 219-13(5): Yellowknife Office Space Plan

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister for Public Works and Services regarding the Yellowknife office space plans. In the Minister's memo of yesterday, February 4, 1998, tabled in this House, it states between January and August, DPW developed a variety of discussion papers for consultation with deputy ministers on the issue of satisfying our office space requirements. By July all deputy ministers reached an agreement on the plan. Could the Minister state that it is correct, for all intensive purposes, the administration put its stamp of approval on the Yellowknife office space requirements on or before July?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 219-13(5): Yellowknife Office Space Plan

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the question is clear to me, but to try to answer it, I think the question is who prepared the Yellowknife office plan? The Department of Public Works and Services deputy

minister along with the North Slave regional superintendent, Mr. Vince Dixon, are the ones who were playing the key role in preparation of the Yellowknife office plan. They have consulted with the deputy ministers of all the government departments who rely on Public Works and Services to plan and administer their office space requirements here in Yellowknife. This plan was initiated in January, 1997. There was a rationale plan that was agreed upon in July, 1997. In August, the Cabinet reviewed the proposal and approved the proposal in principle, some work was done on it and this January, 1998, the Cabinet formally approved the plan. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 219-13(5): Yellowknife Office Space Plan

**MR. OOTES:**

The reference was made that there were a variety of discussion papers in the Minister's document yesterday. Would the documents have been sent to each deputy minister?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 219-13(5): Yellowknife Office Space Plan

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the plan developed there were different options that were developed. Yes, there were different documents that came around and the deputy minister of Public Works and Services, along with his colleagues the other deputy ministers, were privy to these documents and for their own internal discussions. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Supplementary, Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 219-13(5): Yellowknife Office Space Plan

**MR. OOTES:**



Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If they were for their own internal discussions then presumably other staff members would have access to these particular documents? Could the Minister tell us that please?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 219-13(5): Yellowknife Office Space Plan

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the honourable Member knows very well what happens to documents in the government system. They are shared among the departmental staff that are affected by it and there are quite a few of these documents that may be available and they get out. The honourable Member knows that these documents get out. The intention is that it is a working document for the internal government planning for their office space. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 219-13(5): Yellowknife Office Space Plan

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**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if I could receive the copies of those working documents that were circulated? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 219-13(5): Yellowknife Office Space Plan

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, these were working documents and they evolve as they are developed. I do not see the reasoning why the honourable Member would like to see copies of these documents that were working documents. As the departments decide on what kind of options they are going to be taking, these documents are no longer

useful and other newer ones were developed. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Question 220-13(5): Content of the Food Basket

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I questioned the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment in the area of the seniors' fuel subsidy. I am seeking a little more clarification for my question. I had asked the Minister yesterday what made up the food basket. I did not get a clear answer on that issue. I would like to know from the Minister, what makes up the food basket? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent.

Return To Question 220-13(5): Content of the Food Basket

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the food basket is a sum of money which is part of the income support package which differs in various communities to reflect the costs of food in each community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 220-13(5): Content of the Food Basket

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What is included in that food basket? Apples, oranges, potatoes, Kraft Dinner, hamburger, Spam? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 220-13(5): Content of the Food Basket

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The food basket as I have said is a sum of money. There is no actual food included in the food basket. It just refers to the amount of money which is allocated to allow a family to purchase food. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 220-13(5): Content of the Food Basket

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I see that the Minister is trying to get as good as the Honourable John Todd at stick handling. I know the food basket is a sum of money, it is based on something. What is that based on? Buying pop at the corner store or buying some nutritious food? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 220-13(5): Content of the Food Basket

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am not certain we could say that the food basket is tied to specific foods. The amount of money is one that was set many years ago. It has not been changed since 1992, and it would be difficult for me to say that it is tied to specific food at this point. Yesterday, I did indicate to the House that the department, in cooperation with the Bureau of Statistics, has embarked on a study of the cost of a nutritional basket of food. We will, therefore, be proposing to change the amounts in the food baskets subsequent to us receiving that information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions, Mr. Picco.

Question 221-13(5): Repairs of Navigation Aids in Iqaluit

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last week in the House I had asked the Minister for Transportation a question concerning a problem with the navigation aids in Iqaluit at the Iqaluit airport. I wonder if the Minister could update us now on some information regarding the fixing of that equipment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister of Transportation, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 221-13(5): Repairs of Navigation Aids in Iqaluit

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, last week in the House, there was a question about the Iqaluit localizer beam problem. I just want to clarify here for the House that the main instrument landing system at the Iqaluit airport has always been in service and has always been working well. The problem has been the localizer beam which allows the aircraft to make an instrument landing approach from the opposite direction. This localizer beam was tested earlier on and found to be working properly, but something in the background of the beam seems to be deflecting the signals on the tolerance. NAV Canada had specialized aircraft which were not available until earlier this week. They did go into Iqaluit and have confirmed the beacon is fully repaired and

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operational as of yesterday, Wednesday, February 4th. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Question 222-13(5): Manitoba Trade Delegation

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Deputy Premier. It is in relation with the upcoming Manitoba trade delegation that is going to be travelling through the eastern Arctic and also to Yellowknife. Can the Minister advise us as to what Members or government officials will be travelling with the delegation, if any, while they are on their tour? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Deputy Premier, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Return To Question 222-13(5): Manitoba Trade Delegation

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government of the Northwest Territories will be represented as hosts by a Cabinet Minister during these visits by the Manitoba delegation later this month.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. O'Brien.

Supplementary To Question 222-13(5): Manitoba Trade Delegation

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a followup to a question I asked the other day in the House. Will this government be discussing the protocol agreement or the memorandum of understanding that was signed a year and a half ago by our Premier, Mr. Morin, and the Premier of Manitoba. Will that be discussed on this particular tour? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 222-13(5): Manitoba Trade Delegation

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is one issue that is being discussed as possibly being put on the agenda. In fact starting this afternoon and the next couple of days, the actual details of the agenda will be finalized.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Rabesca.

Question 223-13(5): Substandard Culverts in Rae-Edzo

**MR. RABESCA:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of MACA regarding comparing the funding for culverts in Fort Providence and Rae-Edzo. The culverts and ditches that I see in the community of Fort Providence are more properly

designed and maintained better than in Rae-Edzo. I was wondering if the Minister responsible for MACA has any comparison or anything to update us on resolving the difference between the two communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 223-13(5): Substandard Culverts in Rae-Edzo

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you Mr. Speaker. I have directed my staff to work on the question that the Member had asked earlier and it is still in the process. As soon as I receive some feedback from the staff, I will provide the information to the Member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 224-13(5): School Board Personnel Issues

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if you would just bear with me for a second, I have a bit of a complicated question, but there is an easy answer I think. It concerns education and the meeting earlier today with the divisional board of education chairs for the Nunavut region. A concern came forward with funding. I had asked Mr. Dent earlier about this, last week. When the school boards, Mr. Speaker, have teachers who are sick for a day, two days or three days or who go on maternity leave, then the school board has to hire additional staff. I understand, for example, in the Baffin region we have 13 schools and maybe 200 or 300 teachers. It adds up to a lot of money over a one-year period. The board then has to make up that shortfall for paying salaries. You have to cut some of the programs. I am wondering at this time has the Minister been made aware of this situation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent.

Return To Question 224-13(5): School Board  
Personnel Issues

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This kind of situation would be one that I expect a prudent manager would budget. It would be a fairly standard practice to expect employees would get sick or that some employees might have to take maternity leave in the course of a year. I have not been specifically advised of that being a problem, but it would be something that I would expect that the boards would budget for. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 224-13(5): School Board  
Personnel Issues

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would have thought that the boards could have or would have budgeted also. In the formula arrangements that are in place for all the school boards in the Northwest Territories, is there a contingency factor within that formula for incidents like we just explained or described in the House? Thank you.

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**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 224-13(5): School Board  
Personnel Issues

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There would not be a contingency fund related to that issue. There may be a part of the formula which would reflect those sorts of needs, but I am unaware of the details of the formula. I could undertake to make sure that the Member gets a copy of the detailed calculations of the formula. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 224-13(5): School Board  
Personnel Issues

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker the concern with the education boards has been that they do not have the necessary funds because of increased student enrolments. I am wondering if the Minister could commit giving me a copy of that formula so I can have a look at it. I appreciate his commitment to that. I wonder if he also could commit maybe over the next couple of days with the chairman of the divisional board from Iqaluit in town for the Baffin Divisional Board of Education, could he sit down and discuss some of these concerns if he has already not yet done so? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 224-13(5): School Board  
Personnel Issues

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is always my pleasure to meet with the chairs of the divisional boards whenever they request a meeting.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Roland.

Question 225-13(5): Augmenting Food Basket  
Assistance

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions will be to the Minister responsible for the Education, Culture and Employment on the areas previously questioned on the fuel subsidy. Now that we have an idea of what the food basket is made up of, from Statistics Canada based on 1991 dollars, I would like to know if the Minister, as I had asked yesterday, would look at including other things in this besides this nutritious food basket because if you are a senior in the NWT and own your own home, there are some extremely expensive items that go beyond supplying food. I would like to know in this review the Minister talked about yesterday, if they would look at including some other factors. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister of Education, Culture and Employment,  
Mr. Dent.

Return To Question 225-13(5): Augmenting Food Basket Assistance

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The survey that has been undertaken is nearly complete. There are only a few communities for which we have not already received the information. I do not believe that anything more than food has been surveyed. It would be relatively expensive for us to conduct a further survey to look at other costs in the communities. I can undertake to check with the Bureau of Statistics to see if they have that sort of information available. If so, perhaps we could take a look at lumping all the factors we are aware of in a community together. I suspect that the one figure we will have that is accurate for each community as of March, 1998, will be the cost of food. I doubt we will have other costs. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 225-13(5): Augmenting Food Basket Assistance

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The bureau the Minister speaks of is that the one for the Government of the Northwest Territories or Canada? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 225-13(5): Augmenting Food Basket Assistance

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is the Territorial Bureau of Statistics.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 225-13(5): Augmenting Food Basket Assistance

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would it be possible for a simple phone call to be made to the municipalities on water rates and fuel rates? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 225-13(5): Augmenting Food Basket Assistance

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we could take a look at it. I would like to remind Members this is a \$250,000 program. We have tried to find ways to administer the program with the least amount of administration cost as possible. I would also remind Members there was not a target adjustment to allow the department to continue with this program. When we were directed to continue it, we had to find the money from within. That means in order to fund this program, the monies are coming from other programs. It is important to recognize the need to keep the cost of administering the program as low as possible. The detailed sort of study that it would take to ensure all of the costs which might apply in every single community would make the program very expensive to administer.

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**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 225-13(5): Augmenting Food Basket Assistance

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Based on the answer the Minister has just given me, my question at this time is, would it not be cheaper to keep elders in their own homes instead of government housing? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 225-13(5): Augmenting Food Basket Assistance

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I suspect that was the original intent of the program. I would agree that is obviously one of the benefits of this type of program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 226-13(5): GNWT Lease Renewals

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question to the Minister of Public Works is in regard to the leases this government presently requires. Could the Minister tell me exactly how many leases have been renewed in the last two years?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Again, to remind the Members, that is a detailed question that is not within the knowledge of the Minister. Could you rephrase your question, please?

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the Minister's opening statement, he made reference to the government reducing office space and the question about renewing leases, basically the ones that have expired. I would like to know how many leases have expired that have been renewed in the last two years?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Does the Minister wish to respond?

Return To Question 226-13(5): GNWT Lease Renewals

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do not know how many leases were renewed in the last two years, but I do know that, along with the Lahm Ridge Tower renewal lease, there have been two other examples. One is the Northern United Building where the Aurora College had moved in so there were some negotiations on the lease extension there. As well, the Stanton Hospital Board, there was an arrangement to renegotiate an extension in the Professional Building. These are the two examples I know which have been recent. I do not know if there have been any other leases in the last two years. I will have to take that question as notice. If he wants

the details of the last two years, I will find it for him. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Question 227-13(5): Involvement in Youth Fair

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Education, Mr. Dent. I understand that during the week of February 14th, there is a youth fair put on at St. Patrick's High School. I believe the main sponsor is Human Resources Development Canada. My question to the Minister is, what involvement does the department have in this fair? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent.

Return To Question 227-13(5): Involvement in Youth Fair

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Education and the mine training committee will be sharing space at the youth fair on the 14th. We will be offering information on programs and services delivered through the career centres. We will have staff available to answer questions on making career choices and other products from the department. There will also be three seminars presented throughout the day by the department and the mine training committee, one on financing your education. One is entitled, you do not need to be a miner to work in the mine sector and another on the schools Northern Apprenticeship Program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 228-13(5): Update on Tabling of Salaries and Benefits

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Premier and it concerns the motion of May 13, 1996 and a further commitment from the Premier during the mid-term review that he would table in this House, or he would get Justice's opinion of tabling in this House, a copy of all salaries of employees and benefits over \$100,000. I would like to ask the Premier for an update on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 228-13(5): Update on Tabling of Salaries and Benefits

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had committed to the Members of this House that I would get an opinion from Justice and the Minister has said that I would get an update next week that we would table all salaries in this House over \$60,000 is what I had committed to. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 228-13(5): Update on Tabling of Salaries and Benefits

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**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the tabling according to the motion, did state over \$100,000. If the Minister wants to do \$60,000 I have no problem with that. My supplemental question to the Minister is, when this is tabled in the House would it also give position number or will it give the person's name like other jurisdictions do? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 228-13(5): Update on Tabling of Salaries and Benefits

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am getting an opinion from Justice, and I do not know whether it would give a

position number, person's name or if it will even end up in the House. Once I get the opinion, I will know that. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 228-13(5): Update on Tabling of Salaries and Benefits

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think it was on at least three or four different occasions now this question has come up since the motion of May 13, 1996. The Minister keeps telling us that we are going to get some type of a report from Justice. Could the Minister inform the House right now, what the delay is in Justice that we cannot get a reason for not tabling this document? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 228-13(5): Update on Tabling of Salaries and Benefits

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I could ask Justice what the delay is. I do not know how high of a priority it is. I know that Justice works and does an awful lot of work on behalf of this government. There are many other issues they deal with. I know they take all motions and Members' concerns seriously from this House, but there are many pressing issues the government has to deal with. We will try to get it here as soon as possible. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 228-13(5): Update on Tabling of Salaries and Benefits

**MR. PICCO:**

Just for clarification, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the idea of the publishing is for the accountability and transparency of government like other jurisdictions. My followup question, my final supplementary

question to the Premier is, would that also include boards and agencies of the government? For example, Nunavut Arctic College or women's shelters whatever ex-officio government employees, like other jurisdictions do? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 228-13(5): Update on Tabling of Salaries and Benefits

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I could write to NTI, all the boards, Dene Nation, Metis Nation, Gwich'in, the Inuvialuit, the Sahtu and all these people, if the Member would choose, if that is what the Member is requesting. I could do that if he would like me to. I do not know whether or not they would respond. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Barnabas.

Question 229-13(5): Role of Justices of the Peace in Nunavut

**MR. BARNABAS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, three parties for transition have agreed that there will be one court system in Nunavut. I would like to ask the Minister of Justice, Mr. Goo Arlooktoo, what role will the JPs have in this area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 229-13(5): Role of Justices of the Peace in Nunavut

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The issue of a single-level trial court is seen as a solution to the problem of holding court hearings, et cetera, in the Nunavut region. I understand it is also an idea that is being looked at seriously here in the west. It is a result of many consultations and meetings over the years culminated in a recommendation from a conference in December in Iqaluit which was ratified and agreed to by the three parties in January. By all accounts, all

the three parties agree wholeheartedly that it is a good idea. At the same time there is an awful lot of work to do and an awful lot of logistics that need to be worked out. We are all hoping that it is a system that will work. There is ongoing planning and consulting going on right now which would clearly identify what roles the Supreme Court Judge, a territorial court judge and JP would have. These are not easy questions to answer because there are no other precedents anywhere in Canada or anywhere of how it would work. The issue of what JPs would do is an unanswered one but I think the general feeling amongst everybody is that they will have an important role and an important part of community justice system. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Barnabas.

Question 230-13(5): Language in Nunavut Court System

**MR. BARNABAS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation) Many of the Justices of the Peace are aboriginal. Languages are used during court, but somehow Inuktitut is sort of inadequate for use within the judicial system. What is the plan for usage of languages in the court system? Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

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**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Does the Minister wish to respond? It is a new question. The first type of question was in regard to JPs. You do not wish to respond? Mr. Arlooktoo.

Return To Question 230-13(5): Language in Nunavut Court System

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This idea of a new court system is a very important one and a precedent setting one. It has been an ongoing concern in the Nunavut area where they wanted to find more efficient ways of dealing with the justice system. It has been a problem where justices from different levels of courts always resulted in delays in court hearings or court cases being heard. Dealing with criminals, of course, is within the court systems and there will be an upcoming meeting March 23rd to



24th, and we will be discussing the justice issues. It is difficult for us to say just what the roles of the justices and the judges will be on a single level court system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Question period is over. Item 7, written questions. Mr. Krutko.

**ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

Written Question 08-13(5): Costs for Drug and Alcohol Treatment

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written question is to the Minister of Health and Social Services with regard to the cost of drug and alcohol treatment.

1. Can the Minister advise as to the number of people from the Inuvik region who were sent south, both within and outside of the Northwest Territories since April 1, 1995?

2. What were the costs to send people from the Inuvik region south for substance abuse treatment, including transportation and treatment costs since April 1, 1995.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Written questions. Mr. Steen.

**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I request unanimous consent to return to item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Member for Nunakput is seeking unanimous consent to go back to item 5. Do we have any nays?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Steen, you have unanimous consent.

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

**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, honourable colleagues. I would like to take this opportunity to present my partner of 30 years, Betty, my wife.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Welcome to the Assembly. 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. Mr. Picco.

**ITEM 12: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON THE REVIEW OF BILLS**

Committee Report 6-13(5): Standing Committee on Infrastructure's Review of Bill 6, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to report that the Standing Committee on Infrastructure has reviewed Bill 6, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act and wishes to report that Bill 6 is now ready for consideration in committee of the whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS**

Tabled Document 32-13(5): Minister of Transportation's Report to the Legislative Assembly for 1997, Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act (1990)

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Mr. Speaker, I have two documents for tabling. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document which is entitled the Minister of Transportation's Report to the Legislative Assembly for 1997, Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act (1990).

Tabled Document 33-13(5): Lease with Lahm Ridge Tower Investments Ltd.

Mr. Speaker, I am also pleased to table three documents related to the Lahm Ridge Tower Lease: the lease with the Lahm Ridge Tower Investments Ltd., with an expiry date of November 30, 1995;

Tabled Document 34-13(5): Renewal of Lahm Ridge Tower Lease

and the renewal of the same lease, dated September 29, 1997;

Tabled Document 35-13(5): Assignment of Lahm Ridge Tower Lease to 974102 NWT Ltd.

and the assignment of the lease to 974102 NWT Ltd., dated September 30, 1997. Mr. Speaker, Members will note that the financial details of the transactions have been blackened out consistent with the approach taken to releasing such documents under the Access to Information Act.

The other area I would like to draw Members' attention to is the duration of the original lease, this dated December 13, 1990, rolls together two previous leases, number 1016 and

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1185, which date back to 1985 when the building was originally leased by the Government of the NWT. One of these leases was for space occupied by the Education Department of the GNWT and the other was for a federal lease for space occupied by the Department of National Health and Welfare. When the GNWT took on the responsibility for Health, it also took on the liability for the office space occupied by the new department. It was decided at the time, for the purposes of simplicity, it would be in the best interests of both the landlord and the tenant to enter into one lease for both departments. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Tabling of documents. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Tabled Document 36-13(5): Letter from Mayor John Curley Re: Banking in Cape Dorset

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a letter dated January 23rd, from Mayor John Curley of the municipality of Cape Dorset, addressed to myself, regarding banking services for Cape Dorset.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Tabling of documents. Mr. Picco.

Tabled Document 37-13(5): Firefighting Services to Increase at 28 Airports: Globe and Mail Article, February 4, 1998

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to table a document entitled Firefighting Services to Increase at 28 Airports, an article by the Canadian Press in the Globe and Mail. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. Bill 8, 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), 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. Can I have direction from the committee as to how you wish to proceed? Mr. Barnabas.

**MR. BARNABAS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the committee wishes to consider Bill 8, Appropriation Act, 1998-99, Committee Report 02-13(5), Committee Report 03-13(5) and continue with Finance and MACA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Does the committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you. We will continue in that manner after a 15-minute break.

--Break

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

I would like call the committee to order. If the committee is agreed, we will continue with the Department of Finance. At this point, I would like to ask the Minister if he would like to bring in witnesses? Does the committee agree the Minister can bring in witnesses?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Would you seat the witnesses, Sergeant-at-Arms? For the record, Mr. Todd, could you introduce your witnesses, please?

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my immediate right is Ms. Margaret Melhorn, deputy minister of Finance and on my left is Mr. Bill Setchell, director of Finance and Administration.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Welcome to the committee. We left off yesterday on page 3-13, revenues. Are there any further questions on this particular item?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

The committee agrees. We will move on then, back to page 3-5, program summary. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you. Program summary, finance, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$8,898,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you. Total expenditures, \$8,898,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Does the committee agree that consideration of the department's estimates is concluded?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you. I would like to thank Mr. Todd and his witnesses. We would then move on to the next department. We are now dealing with Municipal and Community Affairs. I would like to ask the honourable

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Minister, Manitok Thompson for opening comments on the department.

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Yes, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, and committee Members. I am pleased to present the 1998-99 main estimates for the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs.

MACA's core business includes programs such as community planning, emergency planning, fire safety and protection, sports and recreation, monitoring and evaluation, land administration, property assessment and mapping and surveying. These functions provide communities with the support they need to deliver local programs and services.

For 1998-99, MACA's key focus will continue to be community empowerment activities through a community development approach. We are working hard to ensure that community governments have the authority and capacity to deliver programs and services to their residents.

Last November, I distributed to all MLAs a summary report on the many empowerment activities that are underway in each of the communities. More than 260 transfers of territorial government programs and services to community governments have occurred to date. It is evident that we have made significant

progress, but we will continue to keep up our efforts to prepare communities for greater authority and decision making through the developmental approach.

Mr. Chairman, for fiscal year 1998-99, the department is proposing a budget of \$106 million. More than \$81 million have been identified as operation and maintenance funding, with almost 80 percent going directly to community governments and other client groups as contributions. The department is also proposing a capital budget of \$25 million. With respect to human resources, the department has a total of 159 full-time positions.

In 1998-99, the department's key priorities are targeted in the following areas.

-We have sustained 1997-98 funding levels of \$3.7 million to support community empowerment. Seventy percent of this funding is provided directly to community governments in the form of contributions for community empowerment projects and activities.

-We have also sustained a total of \$1.5 million identified under the Northern Employment Strategy. This strategy is aimed at stimulating job creation and economic growth while providing opportunities for training and employment at the municipal level.

-Effective Sport and Recreation Programs are another critical component of community development and community wellness. With one-half of the NWT population under the age of 25, support to sport and recreation programs is a significant and positive way of encouraging healthy lifestyles for our young people and providing healthy activities in communities.

With this in mind, I am happy to announce that my department has identified funding for a Nunavut and Western Arctic Coaching Development Strategy for 1998-99.

The strategy will emphasize training more northerners through the National Coaching Certification Program, developing more northern coaching resources like the Inuit and Dene Games manuals and the training of northerners to be coach trainers.

This investment will help ensure that our young people have properly trained and accredited coaches to organize and deliver more community-based sports. Our young people need to be well coached and this strategy will ensure the coaches get the training and technical resources they need. The

strategy will also help preserve and further develop our traditional aboriginal sports and games.

On the community operations side, a general assessment of all communities in the general taxation area must be undertaken in 1998-99. The department has allocated \$1.5 million for this important and legislated initiative.

Mr. Chairman, as committee Members are aware, the department has been actively involved in reviewing municipal legislation with its partner, the NWT Association of Municipalities. The NWT Association of Municipalities and MACA will continue to work together to ensure that key legislative amendments are introduced for the review and approval of this House prior to 1999.

Mr. Chairman, when I attended the Kivalliq Leaders Forum with representatives from the Kivalliq Inuit Association, the mayors from each community, the Keewatin Divisional Board of Education, the Keewatin Regional Health Board and the three regional MLAs, in Whale Cove last November, I received support, through resolution from the leadership, to proceed with the community infrastructure pilot transfer. Mr. Chairman, I am also aware of concerns raised by the Standing Committee on Infrastructure regarding this project.

Infrastructure transfer is an important part of the community empowerment initiative. I want to assure Members that the issues you raised are important and are being considered in the development of template agreements, budgets and regulations. Details and potential costs and savings will be identified and considered as the project is further explored. I have also sought support from the Interim Commissioner for assistance in the development and implementation of the Keewatin Pilot Project.

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The Government of Canada has established a budget of \$32.7 million for the Nunavut Incremental Infrastructure Program. This funding is for schools, roads, municipal buildings, water/sewage systems, vehicles and equipment needed to serve the population growth caused by the start-up of the Nunavut government. This funding will be spent over the next four years.

MACA chairs the intergovernmental project team tasked to coordinate the management and construction of the capital infrastructure in Nunavut

communities. I am pleased to report that construction is currently progressing on schedule and on budget.

In 1998-99, MACA will continue to deliver a number of training programs including Community Councillor Orientation, Leadership Development, Community Land Administration Certificate Program, the Community Constable Program; a wide range of municipal administration training programs, including the Advanced Senior Administrative Officer Training Program, emergency response and firefighter training and a number of coaching and recreational leadership courses.

Mr. Chairman, I want to draw attention to the greater focus my department has placed on monitoring and evaluation. The monitoring and evaluation function was established in the reorganization of the department last year. In addition to monitoring the financial status of community governments, monitoring and evaluation staff also provide support for community assessment and with municipal evaluations. This function also provides for internal review of transfer agreements to ensure consistency and proper interdepartmental review.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening remarks. I would be pleased to respond to any questions the Members may have.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Ms. Thompson. I would like to recognize now the Member for the Standing Committee on Infrastructure and ask him to present the committee's comments on this department, Mr. Barnabas. Mr. Ootes, do you wish to speak?

**MR. OOTES:**

Yes, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if we could get a copy of the Minister's statement and also for other departments. I believe last time, we agreed that we would have the statements provided at the time that they were presented. So perhaps if the Minister could give us copies of her statement? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. I am informed by the clerk that copies are on the way, and you should have them shortly. As well, other departments will receive copies. Mr. Barnabas, do you wish to proceed with the committee's comments on the department's estimate?

**MR. BARNABAS:**

Yes, Mr. Chairman, thank you. The committee Members were concerned that comprehensive assessment has not been completed for all of the communities in the general taxation area. There was a concern that there may be a number of tax arrears and that their aggregate may be significant.

The committee requests a list of commercial, institutional and residential properties in the general taxation area that are currently in arrears by the community, their respective cumulative arrears and a list of communities that may not have up-to-date property assessments.

The Nunavut Incremental Infrastructure Program provides for the improvements to existing infrastructure in Nunavut and is funded by the federal government. This program is over and above the Infrastructure Program of the Government of the Northwest Territories. The Minister advised the Committee that these are not government funds but are flow-through dollars for improvement projects. These projects are not listed in the capital estimates. The department has agreed to provide the committee with a list of approved projects for the program .

The Keewatin regional leadership has made a proposal to manage the region's airports under the regional authority and is seeking appropriate block funding. The committee was concerned that this may be the beginning of another level of government. The committee is not aware of any other region in which mayors receive block funding for operations and maintenance and capital infrastructure. The committee was also concerned with the effects of division on this initiative and holds the view that this proposal should wait until after division. The committee was also concerned with the human resources implications at headquarters and in the region.

According to the department, this was a community generated initiative and is supported by the local mayors. Committee Members note that this is a profound change in the way the Government of the Northwest Territories does business.

In the committee's view, the initiative should be postponed until after division. The committee noted that the Standing Committee on Government Operations is of the same opinion. Both committees are of the opinion that this initiative will create another level and form of government. The committee noted

that regional structures are not envisioned in the Nunavut Implementation Commission's proposed government structure. In their response to the NIC report, the GNWT agreed that there should be only two levels of government in Nunavut, community and territorial. It is unclear whether the Interim Commissioner for Nunavut has been consulted or involved in any way in this substantive change to long-term service delivery in Nunavut.

In addition, the committee notes that there have been other concerns expressed with similar empowerment initiatives within the Keewatin region including health services delivery, mechanisms and various resupply proposals. Community empowerment initiatives within the Keewatin region appear to be taxing public sympathies, as well as government resources. Too many questions remain unaddressed to warrant consideration of this proposal at this point in time. However, after meeting this morning with the Keewatin mayors, we will again review the proposal. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. I would now like to ask the Minister if she would like to bring in witnesses?

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**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes I would, if they are in the room now.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mrs. Thompson. Does the committee agree that the Minister may bring in witnesses?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Would the Sergeant-at-Arms bring in the witnesses and seat them? I would like to ask the Minister is she would be kind enough to introduce her witnesses to the committee?

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is Penny Ballantyne, my deputy minister. To my right is my

ADM, Vern Christensen. Also to my right is Chris Keeley, director of finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Welcome to the committee. I now open the floor to general comments on the department's estimates. Mr. Miltenberger.

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As we get into the detail, I will have more specific questions. I would just like to highlight some of the areas of concern that I will have questions on in the coming time that we are going to spend at the table together. I am interested in a more detailed discussion on the issue of empowerment for a number of reasons, one as it relates to the Keewatin pilot project since we met with the mayors this morning and exactly what is being proposed. I am also concerned from the empowerment perspective of the South Slave where there is a perception, I know among the Metis leadership, that empowerment, in their eyes, seems to be seen as undermining some of the basic negotiating issues that are being dealt with through self-government negotiations with the federal government.

I am also interested in a more detailed discussion, when we get to that particular item, in the area of taxes and the reassessment that is being referred to in the Minister's opening comments. Specifically, I am interested in the difference between tax-base versus general taxation areas, the split, possibly on a per capita basis, but the issue is related to those general taxation and that assessment. I would also be questioning the Minister on capital infrastructure issues in Nunavut just so I can have a clear idea of what is happening. I have heard, for instance, that in fact construction had, at one point, stopped for some reason and that costs were in fact quite high. I will be asking for further detail on that.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I am interested in a more detailed discussion as well on the issue of monitoring and evaluation of all communities and value for money, and how many communities are in fact operating in the black. This is a very critical issue, I think, that has come to light not only with MACA but with health boards and I think all the boards that this government funds. The whole issue of monitoring and evaluation, support and training are critical components of the partnership that exists between the department and the communities in the regions with the boards they set up. I will be asking more

detailed questions at that time as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Before I recognize Mr. Ningark, I would like to remind the committee that we will continue with the procedure we established whereby all Members put forward their general comments, and then we will ask the Minister to respond. Mr. Ningark.

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I hear the Minister talk about community empowerment, community development, infrastructure and so on. We know, at least in the Nunavut area, there have been some municipalities in a bad financial situation in the past. In fact, we have seen some recovery programs in the Nunavut area. At least I know of one. Perhaps there are more across the board. As we give more power to the communities, build more infrastructure in the communities and allow the communities municipalities in this case to develop land and site improvement. There are times when we are required to develop lands and sites a year or two, perhaps five years ahead of time. In most cases, the community cannot afford to front money for a site development. I wonder if the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs has budgeted or given money to communities whereby the communities could see one or two years ahead of time, develop a land for home improvement or infrastructure. As we get ready for Nunavut, I know there is a requirement to build homes and other infrastructures in the community.

Secondly, Mr. Chairman, as we speak here, in this forum, there are communities, hamlets, in this case, merging with the housing associations or, for that matter, amalgamating with the housing association. I do not like to use the term, taking over. If and when the housing association, that is merged with the municipality, has a surplus at the end of the year, what happens to that money? Does the hamlet retain that money, portion or in whole? Does it go back to the government purse? I will be expecting the Minister, at the end of the comments from the Members here, to respond to my questions. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. General comments on the department's estimates. Mr. Krutko

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the whole initiative of community empowerment and the ideas of assisting communities to basically take on more responsibilities, it is a good idea. I think at the end of the day, there has to be adequate resources in place to ensure that the ability of those communities to take on these initiatives are properly funded. There has to be more emphasis given to the communities to allow those negotiations to be concluded in a speedy time frame. I am talking in regard to the community of Aklavik where they have, for several years, been involved in the community empowerment initiative, of looking at the Joe Greenland Health Centre in Aklavik in regard to taking that over and looking at the whole area of programs and services. It seems like it has come to a complete halt in which everything seems to have stopped. Basically, now with those initiatives, the Joe Greenland Program, for instance, where

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they were negotiating to take over the elderly facility in the community, and when the negotiations started, within a matter of months, the department established certain conditions on the facility which had no bearing on those negotiations.

In regard to the resources to carry out those negotiations where the funding has been cut off in regard to the community aboriginal committee who was heading up those negotiation talks. Also, the whole initiative of community empowerment does not mean you just give the community dollars to administer. You have to allow them the ability to have the adequate resources to not only be able to administer it, but also have the proper operations and maintenance funds and the resources to ensure they have the support and the back-up that those human resources people have to carry out their jobs. I think allowing the municipalities to have the ability not only to generate revenues but to retain those revenues regardless if it is in a surplus or what not, but identify the human resources and training that is needed to take over these programs.

Regarding the whole process of communities, we have to get away from this initiative of how we evaluate community needs in regard to infrastructure in communities. We have to start looking at it in regard to the needs of everybody not just based on a formula that determines how many telephone poles you have, how many culverts or what type of infrastructure you have in your community, either

water delivery or utilidors or recreations centres or schools. I think there has to be a more fair way of allocating funds to not just the larger centres but the smaller communities so that they have the ability to have the adequate resources so they can offer those services which all the other centres have, in all the communities, not just in the larger centres.

Smaller communities, such as Tsiigehtchic, where you have a charter community which has a lot of good ideas as to how they would like to see things and be able to take on a lot of these responsibilities, they do not have the revenues in the formulas used to allow them to take on more responsibilities to deliver programs and services and taking over government assets and resources in those communities.

The concerns to date I have raised in this House about infrastructure, such as the water problem that arose that came up in the House with regard to the Fort McPherson water problem, there has to be a faster way of identifying resources, trying to put forth the plans and implement them in a faster period of time than what it has taken to date to look at that problem. It has been almost two years since that issue was raised in the House and still today, it is still being studied. There has to be some mechanism in place in regard to how do we address community items and prioritize them, when it comes to a health question or in relation to the question about replacing infrastructure in a lot of these communities.

We have to be able to look at the whole idea of block funding communities with the idea that you have to be fair to everyone. A lot of communities are hesitant to take over the initiative of block funding or the whole community empowerment idea because of the cuts that a lot of these communities have taken in regard to programs and services delivery. They have seen the cuts to service that was provided previously before we found ourselves in the financial problems we had. I think because of that concern, not only from the councillors' perspective but the residents' perspective on the quality of service that they have received in the past versus what they are receiving today. People are saying we do not want to take on something that does not really work today and because of the backlash that they receive from a lot of the residents. They seriously look at the whole idea of empowerment of taking on something when they already have a big enough problem on their slate right now, without trying to take on something else.

We have to give the communities comfort and the resources to do the jobs in such a way, especially

when you are talking about deliveries of programs and services to communities and having the adequate resources and the adequate facilities and infrastructure in those communities to meet the needs of all the residents of the Northwest Territories, there has to be a clear plan in place. What we seem to be doing is piecemealing the whole community empowerment initiative by doing certain pilot projects in some areas and looking at other areas in regard to the whole regional initiatives, like block funding. I think it has to be done in such a way that everybody feels that they are a part of this government.

The other concerns to the whole human resource training side, where we have to allow the communities to have the resources when they do take on these responsibilities for training and for those individuals who will take on these responsibilities to be adequately trained and meet the criteria so they all qualify in regard to whatever programs are being delivered. There has to be a process with checks and balances in place to ensure that there are adequate resources, adequate training and adequate infrastructure in place to assist communities in regard to concerns people have about culverts, water run-offs, concerns of flooding of the communities in springtime and concerns about the infrastructure as a whole. One thing that worries me, possibly most of all, is the age of a lot of our infrastructure in our older communities. Eventually that infrastructure is going to have to be replaced and at what cost is that going to have a bearing on a lot of our communities? For us to look at the size and the population growth in our communities, we have to ensure there are adequate gaps left so that it does take on the extra population booms that are going to be happening in the future. Develop projects in such a way that it is big enough, but also meets the needs of the communities, not only ten but 20 years down the road. When you have to replace that equipment or the infrastructure, there is enough room for expansion or movement within the community that it can take it. You do not have to keep piecemealing it together and upgrading facilities to meet that demand as the years go on, so it has the capacity to take on those responsibilities.

In closing, I would like the Minister to take into account that there are other processes out there in regard to the whole self-government initiatives that communities are looking at. In my riding, in which it is complicated with the whole self-government questions, how does community empowerment fit into the self-government picture? I think for communities



to hear community empowerment on one side, then see self-

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government negotiators walking around the community a week after that, it is kind of confusing for them to see how it all fits together. I think it is important that we try to streamline these initiatives so that we allow the communities to better themselves and take on these responsibilities in a more meaningful way in regard to the timing of a lot of these efforts. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Are there any further general comments on the department's estimates? Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in the past I have brought up the issue of tax-based versus non-tax based communities and the way support is given. I believe there still needs to be some work done in this area. Over the two years we have seen reductions and I think tax-based communities, in my opinion, have taken the brunt of it. For example, reductions in water/sewer rates usually meant an increase in taxes. Thankfully, in the community of Inuvik, they have managed once again to not give us an increase. I think that is an area that needs to be worked on.

Another area is the CTV Act as we talk about community empowerment. I am sure there must be changes in the CTV Act to accommodate some of these community empowerment initiatives, because it is spelled out fairly clear in the City, Towns and Villages Act what communities can do and how they must operate. I am interested in that area as well, as to some of the changes that are occurring. There were some changes made this last sitting we had to that act, but I think there is ongoing work. I would like to know where we are at with that.

In the area of community empowerment, I was one who spoke in support of it, and I still believe that it is an area that requires work. Unfortunately, the big thrust of community empowerment came when we were doing a lot of reductions. Communities were not too enthusiastic in taking up the idea, especially when they learned they were going to be taking less funds for a lot of the operations. Hopefully, with the budget

being settled down here where we do not have any more reductions to focus on, that would continue. I think also, due process as we heard earlier, needs to be done. For example, in a community like Inuvik, they are undergoing self-government negotiations that will have a very significant impact on the way business is done with this government, for some time yet, before that concludes. That is something that needs to be looked at. Again, it impacts tax-based and non-tax based communities, how revenues will be treated and so on. I look forward to going through the budget and addressing the specific concerns I have raised and hope to get some information that I can share with members of my community. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Roland. I would like to recognize Mr. Picco.

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon to the Minister and her staff. As Chairman of the Infrastructure Committee over the past two years, I have had an opportunity to work very closely with the Minister and her staff. I can honestly say that when we have made committee requests for information, the Minister and her staff have always been forthcoming and I must say, on a timely manner.

The issue of the Keewatin regional transfer begs some further comment, I believe. Originally, the Keewatin transfer was the airport transfer of the airports in the Keewatin region. I understand that in a meeting that was held in Whale Cove, I believe, a Keewatin Region Leadership meeting, they had requested the transfer of all operations and maintenance and capital funding for those communities. When we had a chance to have a look at just the motion in a November meeting of the Infrastructure Committee we were still unsure as to the direction the communities were going to take. I should add that this morning we had an opportunity to meet with four of the mayors from the region and I think it is safe to say that we want to revisit their proposal. Earlier reports that we had, that we wanted to stop it cold, I do not think are fair or justified at this time. Indeed, we want to have a chance to review it. I would hope that perhaps in the new year, maybe April, we would have an opportunity, the Infrastructure Committee to go to Rankin Inlet meet with the mayors and actually get a better understanding with the office of the Interim Commissioner, the Minister for MACA

and NTI present to see what is in the proposal. I thank the Minister for her support and also thank the mayors from the Keewatin region who actually came to Yellowknife to explain their proposal a little better today.

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that the Minister and her staff should keep a close eye on that situation, so that indeed, we use that money for what it was granted for, and maybe to hopefully fast-track some of the identified projects.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Picco. General comments on the department's estimates. Are there any further general comments? Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to see that a key focus of MACA will continue to be the community empowerment activities through a community development approach. I am also pleased to see that the department is delivering a number of training programs. Unfortunately, Mr. Chairman, I do not believe that the training as outlined here is sufficient to adequately prepare people for community empowerment. The department is indicating that their focus on community empowerment will be through a community development approach and I believe what is needed is a concentrated one to two-year Community Development Program. This type of program is needed, Mr. Chairman, as has been identified by several of our standing committees. There have been recommendations from these committees as well as many individual MLAs speaking in this House that community people need training in order to properly implement community empowerment. I believe that we see examples today throughout different areas of the NWT whereby there are problems popping up, mistakes being made that could be circumvented, or if not circumvented certainly alleviated, if community people had some concentrated training.

Mr. Chairman, there are a lot of people who have taken two-day training programs or even two-week training programs but that is not going to solve the problem. Mr. Chairman, what is needed is a concentrated program where people can go take a course through Arctic College in the east or Aurora College in the west, where you can go for a full year or two and take a Community Development Program.

Today, we have people working in the communities, well-meaning, hard working people, but the problem is that it seems as though in every community it is the same people who are being involved in various areas trying to work as hard as they can. These people will eventually burn out, particularly, if they do not have proper academic training.

One of the problems, of course, is that the colleges are strapped for money and these types of programs take a lot of money to develop. Developmental dollars have to be paid out to experts in the field. Perhaps in the west it could be the Dene Cultural Institute. In the east, I am not sure who they could use but certainly over here the DCI has been involved in developing various training programs as well as delivering them. We should take the opportunity to work with the community organizations and regional organizations, as well as our college institutes that we have in place to develop a community development program and offer it on a year-round basis. That way community people could come and take these courses then go back and be much, much more equipped to help implement community empowerment. Not only to help implement community empowerment but to work at other various projects and levels within their communities. This is something that I have been trying to pursue for a while, Mr. Chairman. I believe that since MACA is the lead department in the community empowerment initiative that it is incumbent upon this department to ensure that a Community Development Program is actually developed and implemented. The sooner the better. Mr. Chairman, researching and developing these programs take time. I am sure that if the program was developed over the course of the rest of the winter and summer that the colleges would be only too glad to offer them next fall. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. We are dealing with Municipal and Community Affairs. General comments. Should we go into detail now or should I allow the Minister to respond? Madam Minister.

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a short comment on all the suggestions and responses from the Members here. I do always appreciate the direction that you give me for MACA. I also know that my department has always been willing to answer any questions that you may have. There seems to have been quite a bit of misunderstanding with the

Keewatin pilot project. I did appreciate the Member for Natilikmiot stating the fact that the term being used, take over, is not the right word. In Inuktitut it is more of a partnership building with other agencies in the communities. Community empowerment should not be seen as some animal just swallowing up everybody else along its way. It should be more of a dog-team approach in a fan hitch and people working together to pull together.

I would like to describe the Keewatin pilot project a little bit. There have been a lot of concerns about this project. What the mayors in the Keewatin are trying to do, and the leadership which involves KIA, which is a body of NTI, the health boards, the education boards, we have been trying to develop these leadership meetings across the territories, which involves everybody for the betterment of their regions. In the Keewatin region all they are trying to do is get the infrastructure money that you voted here and agreed upon be transferred to them and the operations and maintenance. They are not talking about taking over the nurses. They are not talking about taking over the programs or teachers. They are just talking about the infrastructure money that is already allocated to the Keewatin region under this leadership so they can prioritize at their level. You make all the policies here at this level, territorial level, policies and criteria for the formula financing and all the legislation. That is, I think, our role as territorial MLAs. All the mayors and leadership are saying is that after you have voted their budget they can decide where they should cut themselves. The smaller communities will still get the same amount of money that you vote from this territorial level.

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It is trying to be a team approach. The mayors and the leaders are saying there is a better way of doing business. They are not developing a self-government. I have said this over and over. In the Keewatin region I know the mayors said this morning, they are not trying to develop a brand new regional government. It is just a management approach of how the funds should be allocated to the communities or how they can prioritize their needs with other partners, which might be the education boards, the health boards. I do not know how much clearer I can make it. The mayors said this morning that they never even thought of self-government because they all know it is going to be a public government. All they are trying to do is work together with the other partners for the Keewatin region after you vote the budget to see how they can work together as a team for the betterment of their

communities. It is just a different way of doing business. When we became MLAs, we were committed to making changes in the government. This is a big change for the government and I think it is a very good, positive change for the government. It is a better way of doing business. If we do not do it now, I know it will happen in the future. It is just a better way of doing business. By doing this pilot project for the Keewatin region, I believe we have listened to the people in the communities and we have found a way. The department has been directed by myself not to force this on these mayors or the leadership. All the department has been doing is informing them how the criteria is set, the legislation and all the technical stuff so then the proposal comes from the mayors the way they want to operate their pilot project.

I know you want to see a concrete proposal because this is the way the government has always worked, but with community empowerment the ideas should be coming from the grass roots level up to this level. I sense the fact that the mayors who came here seem to be frustrated this morning. I do appreciate the fact that the committee Members had time to meet with them and to listen to their side of the story. I really appreciate the membership who was willing to listen to them.

Some comments have been made about the self-government. How does community empowerment and self-government meld together? What we are trying to do with community empowerment is that we are building a foundation so that when you get your self-government there will be a foundation. This community empowerment is a development approach. We are building the skills so that this complements the self-government negotiations. We are assisting the people. When they get their self-government, there will be a solid foundation where the people know how to run their affairs in their communities. Community empowerment is not contradicting self-government negotiations. We are building the skills required to administer the programs and services and maintain the infrastructure for those self-government negotiations. This is not trying to go against self-government, it is hand in hand. It is the approach we are taking. We are doing the best we can to help wherever we can help and this is the need that is needed. We have one of our staff, actually MACA, who sits on the self-government negotiations as an observer and we find out where we are needed to try to develop the communities the way they should be developed. I compliment the staff on that.

There was a very good recommendation made by the Member from Yellowknife, Mr. Roy Erasmus. I think that is needed too, and I will work with my partners to see how we can approach this recommendation from the Member for a community development course or training program. I think there is a need for that, and I will be talking with different partners to see if it can become a reality because I think that is a very good point made today.

Also, there was a comment made that there seemed to be a favouritism made to the Keewatin region. I have stressed the fact that all the regional offices have community empowerment coordinators and community empowerment is the priority of the government. We are being fair to every community in the territories. We are not playing favourites. It is just different regions have been given the opportunities to bring forward ideas, and the idea that the Keewatin mayors have is an idea that came forward from their meetings about two years ago, when I first became a Minister of this government. That is what I wanted to say for my comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. I have the initial direction from the committee to go line by line, but since then Mr. O'Brien has indicated he wanted to make a general comment. Mr. O'Brien.

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be brief in my comments. I also would like to speak on the issue of the Keewatin pilot project. I find myself as the Member for Kivallivik representing Arviat and Baker Lake in a difficult situation. I have one community, my home community of Arviat, that is in favour of this project and our sister community of Baker Lake which is against it. Nevertheless, after the comments that were made this morning through the mayors and especially the comments made by Peter Kritaqliluk, it certainly put a lot more light on the issue than what was prior to this meeting. I could be mistaken, but I do not believe prior to today that there was a formal presentation on this issue. It was brought up in a question period at the infrastructure meeting.

Therefore, today's brief meeting provided some more detail as to what the project was all about. As I said, it puts me in a difficult situation because I have two communities where one is in favour and one is not. I guess from my viewpoint, when this issue first came up I was somewhat sceptical and had some concerns.

For example, with funding, how would we make sure that my two communities received a fair amount of capital and O and M and so on, so forth, to meet their needs? How would this be accomplished and what structure will be in place to oversee that there will be fairness? These are the basic concerns that I had. In principle, I can support the project and go along with it. There are some basic questions that we need answered, and I think some of them have been answered this morning and some through comments that Ms. Thompson has made this afternoon. I think a further detailed presentation could be made that would possibly alleviate a lot of the concerns and provide more information as to exactly how this whole project is going to work. I believe Mr. Picco indicated that there was some interest in travelling to the Keewatin to speak to the communities. I do not know all the

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details on this, but that is a possibility that would provide the information we need to make a solid decision. Having said that, I find myself supporting the project after the comments that Mayor Kritaqliluk made this morning and further comments that the Minister has made. We will wait until we have further details. Thank you, that is fine.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. I hear no direct question. Shall we go on? Shall we go line by line? Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. We are on page 4-6, corporate affairs, operations and maintenance, \$1,959,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Page 4-7, directorate, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$753,000. Do we agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. I am being monitored here. Which is good. Page 4-8, emergency services, operations and maintenance. Total operations and maintenance, \$710,000. I have several. I have Mr. Ootes, keep your hand up please. Thank you. Mr. Ootes.

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A year ago we disbanded the Department of Safety and Public Services and transferred the responsibilities to various departments. One of the transfers was the responsibility for the fire marshal's office and I wonder if the Minister could tell us how the transfer has taken place and what the hiccups in the system have been? Are things running smoothly? Are there any big difficulties there?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Madam Minister.

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There has not been any major hiccups in this department. It has gone very smoothly to our department. Otherwise, there would have been a lot of oral questions in regard to this. I can ask my deputy minister how it has gone from her understanding with the transfer of this to our department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Madam deputy minister, would you like to elaborate further?

**MS. BALLANTYNE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have found that this has been an excellent fit with our department because we already had the emergency services function. What we have done is amalgamated the office of the territorial fire marshal with our emergency services division. In the field, in each of the regions, we now have an assistant territorial fire marshal who works with the regional superintendent to coordinate the training for volunteer firefighters. This has been a great fit because many of these volunteers are also the volunteers for search and rescue or for emergency response in the communities. Pulling those two functions together has been a very good fit and the staff who have come over have been extremely enthusiastic and proactive. They have

really fit in very well. We have been very pleased with how it has gone. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Ootes.

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand there is a bit of a problem with resources available or number of individuals that you might have available. I understand the assistant fire marshal for South Slave/Deh Cho also covers the North Slave region and that maybe a bit overwhelming for one individual to handle. Could you perhaps address that for us? Have you a plan to address that problem and how well you go about perhaps, resolving the manpower problem in that area? Person problem?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

On human resources, Madam Minister.

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is the first time that this concern has been brought to this department. I really do appreciate the Member's observation in this because we can deal with the problem. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Emergency services. Mr. Ootes.

**MR. OOTES:**

I did get some correspondence from the department and while they did not raise it as a red flag, I understood that they were trying to address the problem. It may be asking a little much for one staff member to take care of this large area. Again, my question would be, will you be addressing this? I note in your correspondence to myself that it was certainly not a red flag but certainly expressed some concern about it.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Madam Minister, did you indicate affirmative? Madam Minister.

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

I would like to thank the Minister for refreshing my mind on the correspondence. We will deal with this

issue as soon as we can if it is a major problem. Up to today, we have not had any concerns raised over this. Therefore, we have not seen it as an urgency to deal with. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, honourable Member. Mr. Ootes.

**MR. OOTES:**

I think the Minister is right. I can well understand it when she mentioned earlier that it was a welcome addition to their department because it fits well with emergency services to have the fire marshal's office together. Just on the other side of the department, also transferred were areas like lottery licencing, real estate licencing, Business Licence Act and so forth. Are there any difficulties there? The reason I am asking these questions, Mr. Chairman, is

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because, at the time, there was some concern expressed about how all this would function after the transfer took place. I would just like to be reassured that there are no major difficulties being encountered.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Madam Minister.

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There have been no major problems with the transfers. The transfers have gone really well into our department, and we have been able to make them fit into our divisions very well. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. I have a number of names here. I have Mr. Miltenberger, Mr. Krutko, Mr. Picco and Mr. Steen. Mr. Miltenberger.

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a number of questions for the Minister in regard to emergency services. As we have seen in Quebec and that part of the country with the ice, rain, storms and such, emergency measures have been in the lime light a lot. I was wondering if the Minister could indicate in the territories, how many communities, in fact, have functional EMO plans?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Madam Minister.

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They all have plans in all the communities. I know that each regional office developed the plans with the communities and they all have emergency plans. We have emergency divisions in our regional offices that deal with the plans. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Miltenberger.

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just so I am clear, are these plans current, up-to-date and functional? They have not been there for the last ten years? Nobody has looked at them?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Madam Minister.

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, these are new and up-to-date. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Miltenberger.

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the South Slave and emergency measures, given the fact that the communities in the South Slave are in the heart of the boreal forest, communities have emergency measure plans. Could the Minister indicate what type of relationship is there with RWED? One of the biggest emergency threats, especially in the summertime, is forest fires and all that potential hazard that is caused by that. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

The Madam Minister has indicated she will designate Madam Ballantyne. Thank you.

**MS. BALLANTYNE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Member is quite correct. We do collaborate with RWED in all of the communities below the tree line to coordinate the summertime emergency response plans where there might be a forest fire encroaching on the community. Some of that work involves plans for community fire brakes, and there has been some work done over the years around establishing fire breaks around municipal boundaries. I think the experience we had a few years ago, when we had evacuations from Tulita and Norman Wells, really alerted us to the necessity for making sure that community emergency response plans did include not only plans for evacuating communities, but we also know something about what it takes to receive evacuees, whole communities that arrive. That experience, I think, was very instructive. The debriefings that happened after that bad forest fire season were very helpful. There was a lot of work done between RWED, MACA, the hamlets and communities that had been involved directly impacted. That work was shared with all the superintendents in the tree line area to make sure that we learned from that experience. It is one of those areas though that you do not know how good your plan is until you actually have to use it. The debriefings after an emergency occurs are really an important part of that process to make sure we do correct any deficiencies in the plan. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Miltenberger.

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My final question on this particular section is in relation to Arctic adventures. When I look at emergency services and those people who want to go out, go to the north pole or whatever and seem to invariably get lost or in distress, and we, as a government, pick up the tab. Do we have a policy in regard to that particular segment of emergency services and any kind of requirement for people coming into the country to take part in that kind of extreme adventure to put down some sort of deposit or whatever so that if we have to mobilize a whole community to go search for them or find them on the barren lands or in the middle of the ocean somewhere, that they realize there is a price to pay for this kind of adventure? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Madam Minister.

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that when there is a search going on or if there is an emergency going on in the communities, the communities always know how much budget they have and also how much fund-raising they have to do. I am going to ask my deputy minister to elaborate more on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Madam deputy minister.

**MS. BALLANTYNE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this is an issue that has been a concern to MACA as well. We have certainly raised this with RWED. It is our experience though, that the searches that are required on inland waters or on the land for adventure travellers are picked up by the RCMP and Armed Forces, generally. Where

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**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. You did indicate that was your final, but I will recognize you again, Mr. Miltenberger.

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister's and deputy minister's response brought to mind another question. In fact, I think this government does pay for the RCMP, so we would be, in fact, incurring the costs on these kinds of searches on the land that the RCMP do on our behalf. I am interested, as well, in how your approach to MACA or RWED was received, in terms of raising this issue. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Through the Madam Minister, I recognized Madam deputy minister Ballantyne.

**MS. BALLANTYNE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, that might be a better question for Justice and I would not have that information about what the costs had been. They do not come back to MACA, I know that. With respect to the response from RWED on this, I do not think it has been pursued vigorously from our end as an

issue. Again, I cannot speak to what they might be doing with it there. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. I have on the list here Mr. Krutko, Mr. Picco, Mr. Steen and Mr. Henry. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the question about the emergency measures in Aklavik last year, where there was potential flood which it seems occurs every couple of years, are there any plans in place in regard to the whole idea of evacuations? For instance, in the case of Aklavik where basically, there is only one way in or one way out, which is the airstrip. If that goes you are trapped unless you can use helicopters. In regard to that case, it seems like we are always in the reaction stage. We usually react to things versus being prepared for it. Are there any efforts made to test these things out to see exactly how they work in having these exercises just to do a scenario so the community knows if the fire alarm goes off, what do you do? In the case of a flood, if the fire alarm goes off, you should be prepared for it so you are not reacting to it. You have a checklist in place and you walk through it. In the majority of times, it is the fire fighters who do a lot of the work. They are the ones who should be taking the training. Is there any way of implementing the testing of these plans periodically so that you know you are trying to work the kinks out? You mentioned the incident in Tulita and Norman Wells. Everybody knows that could have happened anywhere. I think we have been lucky in the last couple of years where that incident can happen. What we are saying, with El Nino and everything that is happening in southern Canada, it can happen up here just as easy as it has happened down there. I think, keeping that in mind, we should be more in the preparation stage than basically the reaction stage. I was wondering if you guys periodically try these things out to see how they work?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Madam Ballantyne.

**MS. BALLANTYNE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in situations where there is a potential flooding situation, the rivers are watched very carefully. This is certainly the case

almost every spring in Hay River and also with the Salt River in the last few years. This was the case in Aklavik last spring when there was a potential flood situation there. In that case, certainly in advance of the situation, it is often from local knowledge that people have about how much snow there is and often what elders think is going to happen with the river in the spring. The local people are alerted. Our regional superintendent and staff are certainly alerted. Last year, for example, in Aklavik we were receiving almost daily reports from the regional superintendent as the river rose. It looked, as you know, very close at one point that it was, in fact, going to flood.

In specific answer to the question, yes, the flooding situations are always closely monitored. In terms of are they tested, the emergency measures sometimes do include things like mock disaster, and these do occur in some communities from time to time where there will be a mock disaster just to test how well the plan works. Sometimes these are done with an aircraft crash simulation or an accident simulation. They have proven to be very beneficial. So yes, those things do occur as well. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Emergency services, Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Are the tests done in all communities? You mentioned in some communities it occurs, but probably the majority of the time, perhaps in Yellowknife where they have everything but the kitchen sink in which they have fire trucks and ladders, you name it. A lot of the communities are putting around in Volkswagens where these guys have got Cadillacs. I think there is a difference in regard to that you can test it

Page 601 where everything is there. If you test it in a community where basically if the fire truck works one day, great, if you have to boost it to start it and try to get all these other things going, you learn from those mistakes. You take those things out. The reason I ask the question is because there are plans there, all right, but you have to spend many years with Esso where basically every month we had to do a drill where you had to put on your oxygen tank, mask, run out with the hoses, go out with the fire truck, and test it in the middle of winter. It did not matter if it was 40 below or 30 below. Basically, it had to work. The only way we knew it worked was that you had these tests, and if something was wrong, you knew. You do not



wait until the incident happened, then you do the test and you find out that the pump is frozen or the truck will not run. You try to make sure by doing these tests every once in awhile that you find these problems in relation to the equipment, who is in charge of what. You do not want ten foremen and one guy running the truck and that is the end of it. Everybody has to know what their places are and who is responsible for what. That is why I asked the question. I know that these types of things do happen in larger centres where you have fire trucks, where you have more people such as in Yellowknife - used to be Norman Wells, wherever - because of the airports and where they have equipment. Do they do these tests in every community just to ensure that they all know what their roles are and what equipment they have, does it work or does it not?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Madam Minister.

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The other day, last week or something, one of the Members asked what if there is snow in the doorway of the fire truck. That seemed to be what the Member was saying, it might not be the right words. The community has to take some responsibility in these everyday functions of their firehall and there is training that we give to the volunteers. The community should be monitoring some of the equipment and we assist them where we can. I will provide the Member, through the department, the training initiatives we do with the fire volunteers in the communities. The communities should take on some responsibilities. They are able to do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to put the onus on the communities, especially regarding Fort McPherson, for years they have been asking for a new fire truck. There have been several incidents where there was a fire where the fire truck, for some reason, could not start and it is an older piece of equipment where you keep trying to fix it up so it is in running order. I would like to know who does the assessment on the equipment in these communities to ensure the equipment is in good working order and also the

equipment that the firefighters themselves use is up-to-date and safe. The majority of these individuals are volunteers. If there is ever a fire and someone was ill-equipped in regard to a fire in which we lost someone's life, is it the fire marshall who can write a letter to MACA asking that this be classified as an important item that he recommends the fire truck be replaced or the equipment is...

--Laughter

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Is there not a by-law making a community emergency plan a requirement, Madam Minister?

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We recommend that they do. Now regarding the Member's concerns how these fire trucks are assessed, there is an assistant fire marshall in the regions that trains the fire chief in the community. Then those two people assess the equipment. There are also foremen in those communities who can also assess the equipment and there are also the mechanics in the garages in all the communities that assess these things. In terms of a fire truck, we have regional assistant fire marshals that can be contacted if there is equipment that needs to be assessed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Krutko, your time is up for the time being. Mr. Picco.

**MR. PICCO:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to emergency services in Iqaluit, I understand that the federal government deals with this and (Translation ends) 28 new airports will be included under emergency services to get back their fire department. I am wondering, under emergency services, has MACA been aware of this announcement and does that also include the Iqaluit airport?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Ms. Ballantyne.

**MS. BALLANTYNE:**

Mr. Chairman, I am just looking at the federal Transport Canada news release on this item and I see a list of airports required to provide aircraft

firefighting service. Yellowknife is on this list. I do not see any other NWT airport.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Picco.

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that the regulations have included the busiest airports in Canada and also all capital cities in Canada, the provinces and the territories. As we know, Iqaluit will be the capital of the new territory of Nunavut. Can the department inquire with the federal authorities, indeed, to see if Iqaluit would be included under ERS because of that reason? I also note that in the National Airport Systems book put out by Transport Canada, they say in that book, I have showed a copy to the Minister for Transportation, that indeed, the capital of Nunavut should be included in the National Airport Systems. I think from that, they should have the emergency response services. This area came up last year with the cooperation of MACA. Our fire department in Iqaluit received extra training to be able to respond to any type of emergency or incident at the airport, but we still do not have the dedicated ERS service, and I think it is still a concern. I know there is a working committee on the town council who are looking at this. I am wondering if the department can follow up on that for me.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Madam Minister.

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**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There may have been a lot of responsibilities transferred to my department, but transportation has still not been transferred over. I will refer the concern of the Member to the Minister of Transportation of airports. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Mr. Picco.

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I realize that the airports themselves are under the Department of Transportation, but emergency services, such as the response of the fire department, is under MACA. We

do not have any emergency services and that is why I am addressing the question to MACA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Do you want to respond, Madam Minister.

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have to work with my partner again on this, my partner from Transportation, and get back to the Member as soon as I can. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Emergency services. I will recognize, Mr. Steen.

**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, my first question is to follow up to the honourable Member from Iqaluit, Mr. Picco. I would like to know if the local fire departments are trained to respond to aircraft crashes at the airport.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Madam Minister.

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe my deputy minister has the answer for that. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. On the office of the fire marshall, Madam Ballantyne.

**MS. BALLANTYNE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, my understanding is that although the local fire department is trained to secure the site at the site of a crash, actually fighting the fire itself is not something that is within their training. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Steen.

**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I was not referring so much to a fire. In many cases aircraft accidents do not involve fire. I was referring to personnel, passengers and pilots. Who would be responsible for implementing the emergency measures in that case?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Madam Minister.

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can I have the Member clarify or elaborate more on his questioning?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Steen, would you like to repeat or use an example. Mr. Steen.

**MR. STEEN:**

Mr. Chairman, if I could use an example. Before airports were transferred from transportation to the hamlets, there were emergency plans in place at the airport, even though there was no crash standby crew. The airport manager, the equipment operators and the mechanics were involved in training to respond to a crash. There was equipment at these airports as well, in the form of stretchers or whatever was needed. I am just wondering now, who has all that responsibility been passed on to?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Madam Minister.

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask my ADM to answer that, Mr. Vern Christensen.

**MR. CHRISTENSEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the Department of Transportation removed their emergency response services at airports other than the 28 largest airports in Canada, the response to that was that the community emergency response plans were modified to recognize the fact that the service was no longer being provided. The response plans themselves are focused mainly on securing the scene as opposed to responding to the crash itself. Beyond that there were no other accommodations to deal with that contingency.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Steen.

**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I think it is a recognized fact that fighting fires involving high octane fuel is a specialized trade. The federal Department of Transportation used to supply training to airport staff for this particular service. I am wondering if there is any type of training given to the fire departments whereby they have the ability to fight high octane fires?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Madam Chair.

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I am going to ask Mr. Vern Christensen again, to answer this question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Assistant Deputy Minister.

**MR. CHRISTENSEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not aware of any specific training that is being provided to local fire brigades to fight high octane fuel fires. There may be expertise available to be called upon, but my recollection is that we have not been providing that kind of training. It is interesting to note that the federal Department of Transportation is looking at the rescue requirements at small airports and the emergency response planning in small airports. There are two, what they call stakeholder groups, that they have established to examine those issues in particular. Both Municipal and Community Affairs and Department of Transportation are represented on those stakeholder groups, so these are issues, I believe,

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under some active consideration from a federal/provincial perspective. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Steen.

**MR. STEEN:**

Mr. Chairman. I would like to point out that when Transportation transferred airports to the municipalities they did, in fact, transfer some emergency response equipment including fire trucks. Some of those fire trucks were, in fact, foam-equipped fire trucks. They had the capability to be both foam and dry chemical. I understand that in most communities which took over the firefighting equipment, they are now using these particular fire trucks for transportation and because of this the dry chemical in the container gets so compacted from vibration on the road that it is completely useless. Therefore the communities take out those dry chemical things and remove them from the trucks because, in fact, they are useless. I address this as a concern. The equipment was passed on but there was no incentive to pass on training to these people as well. Simply transferring airports does not necessarily mean that the staff available before went along with the transfer. In some communities there is firefighting equipment there but nobody who knows how to run it.

Mr. Chairman, before my time is up, I would like to know at what level MACA is involved in search and rescue? I have always understood that in the communities this was normally hunters and trappers, the rangers or the RCMP who were involved in this. It suggests here that MACA is involved in search and rescue. Could I get some explanation of exactly what level of search and rescue?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Madam Minister.

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. MACA's role in search and rescue is to support the establishment and training of a local search team. MACA works with the communities to establish search and rescue as a complement of the local emergency response plan establishing a search team, developing search and rescue procedures. This allows a trained group of searchers to conduct either a public or community organized search. MACA's role in this is to support the establishment and training of local search teams. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Henry.

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe this area of emergency services has been gone over well. I have a question I am looking for some information on. It is with regard to the federally supported Water and Safety Boat Program.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Madam Ballantyne.

**MS. BALLANTYNE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could we ask Mr. Henry to please repeat the question?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Ms. Ballantyne. Mr. Henry.

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question, and it will come out of my ten minutes, I take it...The department sponsors a Water and Safety Boat Program and it is also supported by the federal government. Can the Minister tell us what areas they target for this Water and Boat Safety Program? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Madam Minister.

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you. Our role is public education and prevention. There were some TV public awareness campaigns that we did with several MLAs which is our role in this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Mr. Henry.

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that last summer the Department of Transportation had also made some videos. Does this department work with the Department of Transportation or is everyone doing their own? Thank you.

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We work very closely with Transportation and the Canadian Coast Guard. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Mr. Henry.

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the Minister tell us how they work closely? It seems to me there is potential for some savings if one department could coordinate the video presentations for the whole government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Ms. Thompson.

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The team approach is, we share resources and we share the cost so we are not duplicating. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Ms. Thompson. We are on emergency services, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$710,000. Mr. Krutko. I am sorry. I have to recognize Mr. Roland because he has not raised a question yet. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to followup on the question on the boating issue and Boat Safety Programs. Could these programs be developed and delivered regionally? I know what was done last year was out of here, but, for example in our region, could a company develop a Boat Safety Program that would be shown locally? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Ms. Thompson.

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes.

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**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Total operations and maintenance, \$710,000. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is with regard to what a community has to do to ensure their equipment is in running order. Myself, I have received letters from the fire chief in Fort McPherson and I have passed them on to the department. They have approached the hamlet council and hamlet council meetings. I think it is important enough for the community, especially with the growing population of the community and the size of the community and the equipment, which is getting old, what does a community have to do to be able to require a new fire truck? Is there a process you have to go through? Who identifies prioritizing the equipment for communities when it comes to capital expenditures? Especially, when it comes replacing the fire trucks?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Ms. Thompson.

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The hamlet, the elected body identifies their priorities. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You mentioned earlier on a question I had asked something about the assistant fire chief who operates out of Inuvik, if they went in and did an inspection. How much weight does a fire marshal or an assistant fire chief from the regional office have when it comes to prioritizing equipment if they know the equipment is not valid? You mentioned the fire chief who operates out of, I believe, Inuvik. How is that done? Does he write a letter to you as the Minister? Do they put it in the capital plan for the region? I would like to know how do you prioritize it if the community feels strongly enough that they want to get an asset? Because of cuts a lot of communities have taken, in which one area that was cut right off the bat was the whole area of infrastructure and capital. I think it may be time now, when we have a possibility of a surplus to relook the whole area of ensuring public safety with regard to equipment such as fire trucks for our communities.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Ms. Thompson.

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is exactly what the Keewatin mayors are trying to say, that what they prioritize gets cut. They would like to do the cutting themselves. If a community needs a fire truck the hamlet identifies it, the assistant fire chief at the regional level supports it, it goes into the capital plan. There is a process and I do not know how to make it more clear. Maybe that is not clear enough. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are there certain national standards with regard to fire protection that we have to follow, where there has to be so much equipment for the size of a population to ensure that it is adequate? Is there a formula that we use to ensure there is a certain sized vehicle that you need for a population of a community? Say the population is 500, then you would get one truck. If your population is 800 you would get two trucks. If it is 1,000, then you would get three trucks. Is there a formula we have to use to allocate which is a national standard that we have to follow when it comes to fire protection?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Ms. Thompson.

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will pass that one to my assistant deputy minister, Mr. Christensen.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Ms. Thompson. I recognize Mr. Christensen.

**MR. CHRISTENSEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a National Fire Protection Association of Fire Chiefs and they recommend standards, many of which are adopted directly by provincial and territorial jurisdictions. There is another group called the Insurance Advisory Organization and they recommend to governments and municipalities certain standards for fire protection which affect the fire protection vehicles that they purchase, as well as the design of the infrastructure itself. Generally, those standards are adopted and the standards and criteria that the government uses

for our protection of facilities and equipment. In respect to fire trucks, we have adopted those standards for NWT communities, but at the same time we do try to maximize the useful life of those vehicles. They have a history of lasting a fair number of years. At the end of a 15-year period, what we can do is arrange for a recertification of that vehicle and where we can do that we do. We can extend the life of a fire truck for another five years because they tend to have very low mileage and use on them and can provide good duty for long periods.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Christensen. Before I recognize Mr. Krutko, I would just like to point out to the Member that fire trucks are under community operations. They are also identified under capital and community operations. It may be the appropriate place to ask questions in regard to fire trucks. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was questioning the whole idea of national standards. How do we identify exactly what the demand on a community is regarding what type of standards there are in relation to the size of a population versus how much your water treatment plant has to have the capacity. Say you have a fire truck versus a utilidor system. You have to be able to know when the fire truck goes back to the water treatment plant that it is capable of not only running water out of the utilidor system but also using the fire truck. In the case of McPherson where there was a fire at the school, one of the things was that they ran out of water from the main tank that they were using, which was the point I was

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trying to make. You have to have the infrastructure in place to be able to ensure that, if there is a fire, as in the case of Fort McPherson where it was the school, that you are able to basically, not only control the fire but also, not have an effect on the infrastructure, which is the water treatment plant, because of having to run out of water. The question I was making about the whole idea of there are certain standards that you have to follow when you develop these plans regarding emergency measures or what not, that you know exactly what the size of your population is, what type of infrastructure you have and also the type of equipment that you are using.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. I did not hear a question there. Did the Minister want to respond?

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have been informed that there are standards which are followed. I did not really hear a question either. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the Government of the Northwest Territories conform to all the standards? Who does the evaluation to ensure those standards are being carried out by this government?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Ms. Thompson.

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated earlier, there is a regional assistant fire marshal that monitors and assesses at the community level. The standards are monitored by the assistant fire marshal from the regional office. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. With that, I would like to recognize the clock. I thank the Minister and her witnesses. I will rise and report progress.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 8, Appropriation Act, 1998-99 and 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. Roland. 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. Item 22, orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

**ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY**

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

Mr. Speaker. Meeting of the Ordinary Members' Caucus at 9:00 tomorrow morning.

Orders of the day for Friday, February 6, 1998:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
  - Bill 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 02-13(5), Standing Committee on Government Operations, Report on the 1998- 99 Main Estimates
  - Committee Report 03-13(5), Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Report on the 1998-99 Main Estimates

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- Committee Report 04-13(5), Standing Committee on Resource Management and Development, Report on the 1998-99 Main Estimates
- Committee Report 05-13(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, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned to Friday, February 6th at 10:00 a.m.

--ADJOURNMENT