



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

5th Session

Day 18

13th Assembly

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The Honourable **Samuel Gargan**, Speaker

MEMBERS PRESENT

Honourable Jim Antoine, Honourable Goo Arlooktoo, 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. 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, Ms. Thompson. Good morning. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Dent.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 47-13(5): New Trades and Occupations

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning. Mr. Speaker, as the first annual NWT Apprenticeship Week draws to a close, I am pleased to announce the designation of a new trade and three new occupations in the Northwest Territories. The Apprenticeship, Trade and Occupations Certification Board met in November to review requests made by representatives of the construction business and the tourism industry to have trades and occupations recognized under our Apprenticeship, Trade and Occupations Certification Act. The board has recognized the new trade of insulator (heat and frost), and at the request of the apprenticeship board, I have recommended that a trade designation order be published. Insulators will now be able to be certified in the Northwest Territories. Occupational certification is a formal recognition of skills. While similar to apprenticeship, occupational certification could be seen as the "younger brother" to apprenticeship. On-the-job and technical training are in the control of industry, rather than government.

As the Members know, this Apprenticeship Week is the first ever held in the Northwest Territories, and earlier, I noted another first with the creation of the Construction Trades for Women Program. Following that theme, it is fitting we finish off the week's activities with the announcement of another first for both the Northwest Territories and, in fact, Canada, that is, the designation of three new occupations under the Apprenticeship, Trade and Occupations Certification Board for certification: furrier, hunting guide and fishing guide. All three are being designated under the Apprenticeship Act in Canada for the first time.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone who participated in the Apprenticeship Week activities in communities throughout the Northwest Territories, and once again recognize the thousands of men and women who work as apprentices and journeypersons across the north. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Miltenberger.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement 171-13(5): Achievements of the 13th Assembly

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when I first became a Member of this Legislative Assembly one of the hardest things to get used to was recognition and acceptance of the fact that I entered a profession that is held in generally low esteem by the people. In fact, I saw a poll not too long ago where we rank even lower than lawyers in terms of public perception, and unfortunately just marginally ahead of child molesters. Mr. Speaker, that is unfortunate because it colours the perception of people and their perception of everything we do regardless of how good it is. I came through the door intent on representing my constituents and the people of the Northwest Territories to the best of my ability. That is still my intention. I believe, that is the intention of every Member in the House here today. We have to strive every day to prove to the people that in fact we have their best interests at heart. In this House I have heard this Assembly characterized as a banana republic. Once again, I believe that is an unfortunate perception. I believe history will show that this

Assembly is probably the best and has done the most of any of the 12 Assemblies before us.

Mr. Speaker, we inherited an Assembly that was for all intents and purposes in political grid lock where there was political scandal on almost a weekly basis, where there was a revolving door to Cabinet. We restructured the Assembly to be much more functional and open. We inherited a deficit and a territorial government that was hurtling towards bankruptcy. We also inherited a huge backlog of legislative agenda of undone business and a road to division that was significantly behind schedule. Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to be part of this Assembly. We have balanced the budget. We have restructured government to make it more efficient and accountable.

MR. SPEAKER:

Your time is up.

Page 608

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement and I apologize for speaking to the Chair sitting down.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, this Assembly has balanced the budget. We have restructured government. We have taken care of a huge legislative backlog, though there is still much ahead of us. We will get to division. We cannot forget the good things we have done because sometimes on a day-to-day basis, we get caught up in our affairs that are before us and forget that we have accomplished a lot. We all have a job to do, Mr. Speaker. We have set an agenda for ourselves and when issues come up, this job requires some people to ask questions, some people to answer questions, like the Lahm Ridge Tower. It is our responsibility as an Assembly to deal with that issue in a professional, impersonal way. This is business. We cannot lose track of the fact, Mr. Speaker, that it is only an issue before us. We still have a very big agenda ahead of

us and lots of work to do in the short life that remains before this 13th Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Krutko.

Member's Statement 172-13(5): Motives for Tough Questions

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the last time I checked, I do have guts and I do have a backbone. I have the right to raise issues on behalf of my constituency in this House, and if the issues end up in the newspapers, so be it. Mr. Speaker, I put my name forth to represent the people in the Mackenzie Delta in relation to issues and, hopefully, to improve the lives of the people of the Mackenzie Delta. I speak not only for the Mackenzie Delta, but for the people in the north. To help make life better for the people in the north, issues have to be discussed, questions have to be raised and comments made in relation to the Lahm Ridge Tower, the whole area of health problems in the north, funding for education and the area that concerns a lot of us, the cancer problems we see in our communities. Regardless if it is a water issue or an education issue, I hoped that it would make a difference. I stand up in this House and ask questions to the different Ministers. A lot of times I get answers I do not feel comfortable with, so I ask more questions. Mr. Speaker, we were elected to not only represent the ridings of the people we represent but the north in general. Programs are delivered by this government for everyone, not for one riding, for one health board or basically for one particular group of people. We have to seriously ask ourselves, who does this government represent? Does it represent the people of the Northwest Territories? Does it represent big industry? Does it work solely on the emphasis that they have to protect their little portfolios in relation to the different departments they are responsible for? I believe that it has come time where we have to say to ourselves, who do we represent?

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mrs. Groenewegen.

Member's Statement 173-13(5): Motives for Tough Questions

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Mr. Speaker, thank you. I am just in the midst of preparing my statement, but I will have to wing the end of it. Mr. Speaker, one more time for the record. I am going to try to explain to the House what my motives are. Mr. Speaker, I campaigned in Hay River on the motto of energy and action. People who did not even like me, voted for me because they said, if she stands up for us the way we have seen her stand up for herself, we will vote for her. Returning home after the last session, a number of my key supporters got together and put me on the hot seat so to speak. They said Jane, what has happened to you? Why are you not asking any questions? Why are you not asking any hard questions? I explained to them very candidly that when I first came here, I got sick. I picked up a virus. I was sick. I was getting over that when I tripped and broke my leg. It took me months to get over that. I was just in the midst of getting over that and my company in Hay River was on the verge of bankruptcy. In the midst of that I got a phone call that my dearest friend, my father, had dropped dead of a heart attack. I explained that to my constituents, but then I did commit to them that they would see the old me who they had elected and they would see energy and action in the Legislature.

On the heels of this meeting with my supporters, I was publicly confronted in a constituency meeting and asked if this government has a communication problem or a correction problem. That is the question I was asked. I committed to find out the answer to that question. On my first day back in Yellowknife, I did go around Yellowknife, I did go to the Courthouse and I did collect public documents in my search for the answer to that question. I returned to the Legislative Assembly to be approached by the Ordinary Members saying, the Premier is waiting to see you. I went to the Premier's office and met with him at his request, and there to my surprise is the assistant deputy minister of Justice, a lawyer I would assume. I am told that she will provide the service of being a witness to the Premier. Mr. Speaker, I have to say, I have been asked, do I hope there are any red faces at the end of this exercise. I sincerely hope not. My motives are not to embarrass or hurt anyone. I am a God-fearing woman. I have made mistakes and I probably will make more mistakes. Every morning when I leave my house, I say a prayer, and I hope and pray that I do not make mistakes which either contravene proper principles of ethics and behaviour or the principles

which I adhere to as a Christian. Mr. Speaker, again for the record, my motives are to represent my constituents to the best of my ability and to live up to the campaign motto on

Page 609

which I was elected which were energy and action. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Picco.

Member's Statement 174-13(5): Timely Receipt of Budget Information

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are doing right now the review of the main estimates for the budget. It is very disappointing, Mr. Speaker, when you are trying to do a review of the budget and have information coming to you the day before or the actual day that a department is up for review. In case of point is, Mr. Speaker, the Department of MACA provided to the Minister of Finance's department, FMBS, a copy of information requested by my committee on the 8th of January. Mr. Speaker, that information I received yesterday. That information pertains to the MACA budget and is information that should have been brought forward in my opening remarks yesterday and in some of the questions yesterday on the main estimates. Mr. Speaker, my concern here today, indeed, is what is causing this delay at the Department of Finance and the Financial Board? It is not acceptable for me, as an Ordinary Member or chairman of a committee. There is also the situation regarding other committees in this House who have had the same problem happening and later today I will be questioning the Minister of Finance who has ultimate responsibility for the budget, to find out if this is actually a mistake or a logistic problem or, indeed, an attempt to sandbag questions. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Ootes.

Member's Statement 175-13(5): Premier's Statement Regarding Lahm Ridge Tower Questions

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concern about the Premier's statement of February 4th, regarding the questioning by Ordinary Members over the Lahm Ridge Tower lease. Mr. Speaker, the Premier's statement caused me concern as an Ordinary Member. He challenged the Member for Hay River to file a conflict of interest complaint. I can only conclude that we have fundamentally different views on the rights and obligations of government and Ordinary Members. As the Premier said, we do have processes outside of this House for dealing with citizens' concerns. In fact, we have several. We have courts and commissioners and adjudicators. As he said, it is true that anyone may make a complaint to the Conflict of Interest Commissioner. I have the greatest of respect for these institutions but, Mr. Speaker, we have another process, one that goes back centuries. It is called democracy. Democracy means responsible government and that means that those individuals not in a governing position have a responsibility to question and be a sober second thought. Responsible government means several things, but foremost, to me it means that Ministers of government are accountable to the people through their elected representatives, the Ordinary Members of this House. Government must be fair and just. It must be seen to be fair and just. There are few opportunities for government to directly answer questions to the people, questions of the people. If there are rumours and innuendo and if the rumours are misconceived, I would have thought that the government would welcome the opportunity to clear up the misconceptions. Instead the Premier chose to challenge one of the Members. Mr. Speaker, whether or not government welcomes this opportunity, Ordinary Members will continue to ask questions in this House whether it is pleasant or unpleasant for the government. It is our responsibility and our duty as Ordinary Members. We will continue to exercise our duty. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Rabesca.

Member's Statement 176-13(5): NWT Ski Coach Firing

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I received a letter from one of my constituents who is

concerned over the recent firing of the NWT ski division's head coach. My constituent is raising concerns of what will become of the ski program. It is my understanding that this coach has assisted the community of Rae Lakes by providing low cost ski equipment and has helped to establish a ski club and promote the sport to the youth and other members of the community. The community of Rae Lakes would like to know why they were not informed or have any input into the decision to release the coach. If this is an association, I would think that each Member should have a say. This decision seems to have taken place at a bad time considering we have the Arctic Winter Games and Territorial Ski Championships fast approaching. I only hope that this decision will not have any detrimental affect on this great sport that over the years has produced many world-calibre athletes in the north. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Evaloarjuk.

Member's Statement 177-13(3): Igloodik Search and Rescue Efforts

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to briefly speak about the incident in the area between Igloodik and Hall Beach. There was an emergency. People from Hall Beach and Igloodik were searching for a person. I would like to state that I am very glad that the person was found and I am very grateful for the accomplishment. Thank you. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Enuaraq.

Page 610

Member's Statement 178-13(5): Broughton Island Request for an Airport Garage Extension

MR. ENUARAQ:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good morning. Firstly I would like to say hi to the people in Pangnirtung, Clyde River and the other communities. (Translation ends) An agreement between the hamlet and the NWT was made a few years ago that the hamlet would receive priority for the use of the

parking garage at the airport. Now the hamlet has need of the whole garage, Mr. Speaker. I would like to see a new parking garage or an extension to the present one to accommodate both GNWT and hamlet. The hamlet now keeps its equipment stored at the airport parking garage. There is no room for GNWT equipment. Alternative storage needs to be found for the GNWT. The proper storage of equipment will prolong their use. A newer or bigger garage is needed for GNWT equipment. This was made known to the Department of Transportation a while ago. Again the community of Broughton Island needs a new or larger parking garage at its airport. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Enuaraq. Members' statement. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mr. Antoine.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a return to oral question asked by Mrs. Jane Groenewegen, the honourable Member for Hay River on February 4th in regard to the time of the Lahm Ridge lease signing.

Return To Oral Question 207-13(5): Time of Lahm Ridge Lease Signing

Prior to the actual signing of the lease extension, a letter of understanding outlining the terms of the extension was signed by both parties on August 6th. The deputy minister of Public Works and Services signed the actual lease extension document on September 25, 1997. The owner signed the same document on September 29, 1997. The time of signing is not known. As the Member will be aware, the times referred to in her question represent the times that the documents were clocked in at the Land Titles office upon delivery from the lawyer's office. It is not possible to be that exact about the time of day that the parties actually signed the documents.

Negotiations on the lease extension took place exclusively between Vince Dixon and Al Marceau, in the superintendent's office, supplemented by a few phone calls between the two. either Mr. Mrdjenovich nor Mr. Bailey were involved in the negotiations.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Returns to oral questions. Mr. Antoine.

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

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Four office leases have been renewed in Yellowknife in the past two years. These are:

- Centre Square, floors six, seven and eight for Health and Social Services

- Lahm Ridge Tower for Education, Culture and Employment and Transportation

- Northern United Place for Aurora College

- Professional Building - lease dollars were transferred to Health and Social Services for their Yellowknife service delivery staff.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Morin.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a former MLA of this Legislative Assembly as well as a former Cabinet Minister, Mr. Peter Ernerk.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I also would like to recognize someone I grew up with in Repulse Bay and I went to school in Chesterfield Inlet with Mr. Peter Ernerk. Thank you.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

HON. JOHN TODD:

Yes, Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would never hear the end of it if I did not recognize Mr. Glen McLean, the President of the Keewatin Chamber of Commerce and resident of Baker Lake and Yellowknife. Thank you.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize my good friend, Mr. Peter Ernerk, who was the first Minister ever of this territorial government. Thank you.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Pat Thomas, NWTTA, and I would like to thank her for the goodies last night. I was thankful we had shrimp there, but it is too bad that the bankers could not make it.

Page 611

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Evaloarjuk.

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) Mr. Speaker, I would like to go back to recognition of visitors in the gallery. I was late. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Amittuq is seeking unanimous consent to go back to item 5. Are there any nays? Mr. Evaloarjuk, you have unanimous consent.

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize a former Member who I used to sit with in the Legislative Assembly, Peter Ernerk, a good friend of mine. Thank you. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Enuaraq.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 231-13(5): Broughton Island Airport Garage

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated in my Member's statement, the parking garage in Broughton Island Airport is getting a bit over aged. There is hardly any space in there for the hamlet and the GNWT. Mr. Speaker, my question will be directed to the Honourable Manitok Thompson, Minister of MACA. When can the community of Broughton Island expect to have an expansion or a new garage at the airport in Broughton Island. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 231-13(5): Broughton Island Airport Garage

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take that as notice.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, the question is taken as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 232-13(5): Timely Receipt of Budget Information

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement I spoke about the main estimate response not coming in on time. I wonder if the Minister of Finance could let us know right now what the delay is in receiving departmental responses?

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 232-13(5): Timely Receipt of Budget Information

HON. JOHN TODD:

Yes, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if my honourable colleague could be more clear as to exactly what we have not responded to and I will endeavour to answer the question.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 232-13(5): Timely Receipt of Budget Information

MR. PICCO:

Thank you. Mr. Speaker, in November during the main estimates review there were several questions asked by my committee in the committee concerning issues surrounding MACA and other issues. I understand that, indeed, on January 8th, MACA responded to FMBS with a copy of all that requested information. That information never came to me for the committee's information until yesterday. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

I did not hear the question. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He asked me to clarify the dates. I just clarified the dates and my question was why the month delay.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 232-13(5): Timely Receipt of Budget Information

HON. JOHN TODD:

Well certainly, Mr. Speaker, we do endeavour to move as quickly as we can in responses to committees and questions that they raise and if we delayed them in this particular instance, I apologize to my colleague. It was probably because we were involved in a whole variety of other things, pay equity, negotiations, et cetera. He got the information

yesterday and if it has been delayed, I apologize and I will try to make sure in the future that we get it to him more quickly. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 233-13(5): New Trades and Occupations

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. It is regarding his statement today about new trades and occupations. Could the Minister indicate or elaborate on the new trade of the insulator (heat and frost) as to how many years the apprenticeship is? Does it have interprovincial status? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 233-13(5): New Trades and Occupations

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The new trade of insulator (heat and frost) is not a journeypersons certification. It is not an apprenticeship situation. It is, as I have said in my statement, like the younger brother of the

Page 612

journeyperson's process. It would not therefore qualify for something like red seal status because I believe that only applies to journeyperson's certification. It takes a lesser amount of time than does apprenticeship in order to achieve the certification. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 233-13(5): New Trades and Occupations

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister also elaborate on the designation of three new occupations he referred to at the end of his statement,

the trades, hunting and guiding and the length of those? Are they community-based? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 233-13(5): New Trades and Occupations

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in answer to the question whether or not these could be community-based, the answer is, like all journey trades positions they can be community-based because they are based in large part on experience and working with people who are certified to teach the program. In terms of how long the programs are, I am not exactly sure, and I would have to get back to the Member on that.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 233-13(5): New Trades and Occupations

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Keeping in mind the difficult financial situation that we are just coming out of, my final question to the Minister is, will there, in fact, be funds to run courses to provide theoretical training for these new occupations the Minister has designated today?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 233-13(5): New Trades and Occupations

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, these programs will fit into our regular course of apprenticeship and trades supports that we provide. Yes, there is adequate money to provide the courses as needed. The money is limited of course, so each year, I do not believe that we offer all courses for every single trade. It depends in large part on the subscription. If there are a number of people who

require the courses, then we endeavour to provide them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Ningark.

Question 234-13(5): Unified Court System Appeal Process

MR. NINGARK:

Mr. Speaker, yesterday Mr. Barnabas asked the Minister of Justice regarding the one court system in Nunavut and I believe the response from the honourable Minister was that a single/double trial court is seen as a solution to the problem of trials in the Nunavut area. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take it from there and my question is for the Minister of Justice. When we talk about Nunavut, our vision was that we would have closer access to many of the services and programs that are currently serviced by this government once Nunavut becomes a reality. I understand that a court system is tribunal and, Mr. Speaker, I believe there is a need for appeal in the court system. I am wondering, how would the honourable Minister of Justice proceed if in fact there is need for an appeal in the court system? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Justice, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Return To Question 234-13(5): Unified Court System Appeal Process

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have indicated yesterday, the proposal is now set up for a single level trial approach system for Nunavut. This is one issue that has agreement with all parties wholeheartedly. However, there are a lot of details and logistics that need to be worked out in the next 12 months or so including details such as how would an appeal process work, et cetera. I do know that those are the types of issues that have had some research done on them. I do not have those in front of me. However, I can tell the Member that the three parties, the federal government, the territorial government, and the NTI are working very closely together to help set up the justice system. In the end, the responsibility will be with the Department of Justice for the federal government with the assistance of our territorial Justice Department. I can inform the Member, I do plan to meet with Honourable Anne McLellan, Minister

of Justice for Canada on the 23rd in Ottawa to discuss this issue. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 234-13(5): Unified Court System Appeal Process

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My supplementary to the same honourable Minister, Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that once we have one level of court system, that would be the Nunavut court system, and then perhaps, a Supreme Court would be shared by two territories? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 234-13(5): Unified Court System Appeal Process

Page 613

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The driving force behind trying to amalgamate the different levels of the court system, the Supreme Court level, the territorial court level and in some degree the JP court level, is the problem of when a court party comes into a community, there are a number of offences that need to be heard. You have many cases where the judge because they are in a different level of the court will say they cannot hear it and the court appearance is delayed for many months. This is one improvement that the communities have asked for and that the government recognizes as a need to be worked on. It is, indeed, the driving force that you get a single level trial process that can hear most of the cases which should go to court. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Evaloarjuk.

Question 235-13(5): Igloodik Community Hall Extension

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. I think the Minister is aware that the community hall in Igloodik is too small for the population. I have not seen any capital funding for Igloodik for the extension of the community hall. Is she aware the community hall is very small for the people of Igloodik? Are there any plans in the future for the extension of the community hall in Igloodik? Thank you. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 235-13(5): Igloodik Community Hall Extension

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if the hamlet has done prioritizing of their capital planning, that is the way you can request for capital funding for the extension of the Igloodik community hall. If the Igloodik hamlet council has a wish to get that done as a priority they can push for the planning of it to be first. I had heard some time ago that the community hall is very small. I am not really sure whether there is anything written to find out the size of the community hall. I will get back to the Member after I find out from my staff. Thank you. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 236-13(5): Monitoring GNWT Contracts and Leases

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier tell me if all government contracts and leases are looked at to see if the individuals or ex-government employees are in any conflict or breach of any ethics or policies this government has?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 236-13(5): Monitoring GNWT Contracts and Leases

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government does not let any contracts out that are against the policy, ethics, guidelines or anything else of this government. All the government contracts we let are according to policy. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 236-13(5): Monitoring GNWT Contracts and Leases

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Premier tell me who is the one who oversees to ensure these policies are adhered to? Which department does it fall under?

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 236-13(5): Monitoring GNWT Contracts and Leases

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It would depend on what contract it is. Most of the contracts are policed by the Department of Public Works, Justice, they will have a Justice opinion or else anything to do with Financial Management Act and the FMB. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 236-13(5): Monitoring GNWT Contracts and Leases

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is there anywhere in the policy if there is a dispute filed by another individual who questions the contract which may have been awarded? Is there an avenue where an individual can raise concerns on a certain contract? Is there anything in the policy that allows a review to be done to ensure that it is adhered to?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 236-13(5): Monitoring GNWT Contracts and Leases

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once you go to tender on a contract or you go to a proposal call, you do have a law to protect those who tender and those are used continually throughout government. One thing I learned previously when I was the Minister of DPW and the Housing Corporation, if you have 20 people bidding on a contract, you are going to have 19 of them mad because only one of them is going to get the contract. You always have appeals. It is a constant revolving door of people complaining. You explain the case and it is done. That is it. That is government. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Erasmus.

Page 614

Question 237-13(5): Update on Chief Coroner Position

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Justice on the coroner's office. Mr. Speaker, as a Member of the Social Programs Committee and as a matter of my own interest in the justice area, I have made statements on this area before and asked questions. We know there has been a lot of concern about the coroner's office, particularly since the coroner resigned some time ago. I would like to know if the Minister could give us an update on what has been done about the chief coroner's position?

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Justice, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Return To Question 237-13(5): Update on Chief Coroner Position

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The former chief coroner resigned about eight months ago. Since then, the government has reviewed the situation of how a chief coroner works in the office and how they are hired, et

cetera. Through a consultant, we actually did a review asking for recommendations on how to proceed. I am pleased to inform Members that as of February 1st, we have hired Mr. Percy Kinney of Yellowknife as the chief coroner for the NWT.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 237-13(5): Update on Chief Coroner Position

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am curious as to whether this particular situation with no coroner for a while has affected the community coroners, whether there have been any resignations or anything like that? Could the Minister indicate please?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 237-13(5): Update on Chief Coroner Position

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would have to check on whether there were resignations. I do know that the period between April, 1997 and February 1st has been a time when government and the coroner's office has had a chance to look at procedures and the way it deals with the work at hand and have had a chance to improve on the way it does business. I must say that the acting coroner, Cathy Menard, has done an excellent job over the past year or so in dealing with the running of the office and acting as chief coroner during that time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 237-13(5): Update on Chief Coroner Position

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last year I made a statement about the poor conditions of facilities for dressing and holding bodies in the communities. As

well, there was an article in the papers on this subject. Has this government done anything in the last year to improve the holding facilities and areas they use for dressing bodies in the communities? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 237-13(5): Update on Chief Coroner Position

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would have to check with the Department of Justice to see what the status is on that request. I do remember the Member raising the issue last year. I will put together the information and pass that on to the Member.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 237-13(5): Update on Chief Coroner Position

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you. Mr. Speaker, could the Minister include what the department intends to do this year to improve those conditions as well? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Arlooktoo

Further Return To Question 237-13(5): Update on Chief Coroner Position

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I will commit to becoming familiar with the issue over the next few days leading up to perhaps when the Justice Department's budget is discussed in the House. Hopefully by that time, I will be able to discuss the issue more intelligently and talk about options with Members of the House.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mrs. Groenewegen.

Question 238-13(5): Policy Re: Meeting with Ministers

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday in the House an issue came up regarding the lateness or tardiness in a response by the Department of Justice to a motion that was passed in this House. The Premier responded, I believe it was the Premier, that the Department of Justice was very busy. I am wondering, Mr. Speaker, I am not sure if this is to the Minister of Justice or the Premier, what the department's policy is with respect to engaging the services of senior functionaries of the Department of Justice as witnesses for Ministers when they have private meetings with our Members? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Page 615

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 238-13(5): Policy Re: Meeting with Ministers

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When Ministers meet with people, it is up to the Minister completely if they choose to have a person in the room to take notes and in this case, when I met with Mrs. Groenewegen, I chose to have someone in the room to take notes. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 238-13(5): Policy Re: Meeting with Ministers

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that does not really answer my question. I am asking a question with respect to specific policy of this government on the use of senior functionaries of the Department of Justice, a lawyer, as a witness for the Ministers in a private meeting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker, a policy.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 238-13(5): Policy Re: Meeting with Ministers

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do not have a policy that addresses this specific issue. In this case, for this meeting, I chose to have an ADM of Justice to sit in the meeting, and that is completely up to me to make that choice. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 238-13(5): Policy Re: Meeting with Ministers

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Okay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For clarification then, there is no policy in this government which would determine Minister's privilege when it comes to engaging the services of senior functionaries in the Department of Justice on a personal matter?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 238-13(5): Policy Re: Meeting with Ministers

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was not a personal matter. I met with the Member as the Premier of the Northwest Territories. She is the MLA for Hay River, last time I checked. I sat down and met with her. We had a frank discussion; notes were kept. I never did talk to the ADM again to check on the notes, but notes were kept of the meeting. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 238-13(5): Policy Re: Meeting with Ministers

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would the Premier agree, I believe I understood the intent and the content of the meeting. Would the Premier, since notes were kept,

be prepared to provide a copy of those notes to me?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 238-13(5): Policy Re:
Meeting with Ministers

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No problem.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 239-13(5): Shortage of NWT Tradespeople

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister for Education, Culture and Employment, the honourable Mr. Dent. I think it is accepted that this government over the past number of years has cut back on the amount of dollars that it has spent in construction activity. Over that period of time, I believe the NWT Construction Association is saying that we now have a shortage of skilled tradespeople in the Northwest Territories. My question to the Minister is, I want to know if he shares this opinion? What is his department doing about trying to get the number of tradesmen increased now that there is much potential with initiatives that the government is putting forward through P3 and so forth? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 239-13(5): Shortage of NWT
Tradespeople

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think we only need to look at the number of tradespeople that had to be imported to build the BHP diamond plant to recognize we could have used more tradespeople in the Northwest Territories. Looking at the future, we have projected fully one-third of all the new jobs we can expect to see in the territories in the next five years will require trades certification. This confirms

the need for more development in order for our young people to find jobs. What is the department doing? Our sponsorship of Apprenticeship Week this year is one example of an activity we have undertaken to raise the profile of trades in the north. We are offering the Schools North Apprenticeship Program in which young people may start an apprenticeship while still in high school as part of the CTS modules. The Mine Training Committee has initiated a program called Mine TAP, which is an upgrading program to enable northerners who are not quite ready to enter into an apprenticeship to upgrade themselves

Page 616

so they can enter into an apprenticeship. We have worked at improving, through our CTS modules, awareness among young people in the north of the opportunities that are provided through apprenticeship. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Henry?

Supplementary To Question 239-13(5): Shortage of
NWT Tradespeople

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, Mr. Dent. My question to the Minister is, are they seeing a trend which shows an increase in the number of tradespeople being produced or graduating each year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 239-13(5): Shortage of
NWT Tradespeople

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I cannot answer the question because I do not know whether or not the number of graduates in the last year has increased. I do know that in the Northwest Territories we have over 19.5 apprentices per 1,000 people in the active job field, which is higher than any other jurisdiction in Canada. Apprenticeship in the north is a very strong career route for a person to choose. I expect from that number, we have a fairly good graduation rate. Most of the graduates from the Apprenticeship Program do

find jobs and stay in the north. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 239-13(5): Shortage of NWT Tradespeople

MR. HENRY:

Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Minister is aware of the vocational trades centre pilot project here in Yellowknife. I was wondering if the Minister has any projections on the number of tradespeople this can, hopefully, bring into the marketplace? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 239-13(5): Shortage of NWT Tradespeople

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I missed part of the Member's question. Could I ask to have it repeated, please?

MR. SPEAKER:

Your third supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 239-13(5): Shortage of NWT Tradespeople

MR. HENRY:

My question to the Minister was, there is a new program being started, the vocational trades centre pilot project in Yellowknife. It is a project to assist individuals with intellectual disabilities to provide training to them. Does the Minister anticipate this will also increase the number of tradespeople for the industry? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 239-13(5): Shortage of NWT Tradespeople

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, any opportunity which increases the number of people who have access to the program will definitely lead to an increase in the number of successful graduates. While the Member was asking his question, I was able to find out that the increase in the number of graduates in the program is about 16 percent over the last year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 239-13(5): Shortage of NWT Tradespeople

MR. HENRY:

Thank you. My final question is, does the Minister's department support this vocational trades centre pilot project? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 239-13(5): Shortage of NWT Tradespeople

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We would support any effort to improve young people's education and opportunities for employment. I cannot answer specifically whether we fund the project or assist with the funding for the project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Ootes.

Question 240-13(5): Yellowknife Office Space Plan

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be for the Minister of Public Works and Services regarding the Yellowknife office space plan. Yesterday, the Minister confirmed the office space plan was initiated in January, 1997 and a rationale plan was agreed upon in July, 1997. In the Minister's statements filed in this House, he said that there were a variety of discussion papers. Could the Minister tell us if it would be correct, if the Department of Public Works and Services knew of the office space requirements and

needs about a month or two before the rationalization plan was approved by the deputy ministers in July? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 240-13(5): Yellowknife Office Space Plan

Page 617

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, starting in January of 1997, yes, the Department of Public Works began to start looking closely at the Yellowknife office space requirement. Through meetings with the deputy ministers, they have determined what would be required and by July they had a fairly good idea of what long-term leases would be retained and we could do with the existing properties of the Government of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 240-13(5): Yellowknife Office Space Plan

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is it therefore correct that on or before July, it became clear that DPW would have to negotiate extensions of the lease in Lahm Ridge Tower? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 240-13(5): Yellowknife Office Space Plan

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Yes, Mr. Speaker. The department knew which long-term leases were favourable to the government and one of them was the Lahm Ridge Tower that was targeted to be retained for use by government. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 240-13(5): Yellowknife Office Space Plan

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister confirm whether it was the Department of Public Works and Services that initiated discussions with Mr. Al Marceau, the owner of Lahm Ridge or was it Mr. Marceau who contacted the department? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 240-13(5): Yellowknife Office Space Plan

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you. It was the owner of the Lahm Ridge Investment Company, Mr. Al Marceau, who contacted the Department of Public Works and Services to initiate the renegotiations of the lease extension. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 240-13(5): Yellowknife Office Space Plan

MR. OOTES:

Thank you. Could the Minister tell us if this was the first contact by Mr. Al Marceau with the department regarding the extension of the lease? Had Mr. Marceau contacted the department in the previous three to four months? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 240-13(5): Yellowknife Office Space Plan

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when the long-term ten-year lease was up in 1995, Mr. Marceau wanted to exercise a lease extension. It was put on hold by the department because of the downsizing and the different scenarios that were going on within

the department about the size of the government, and I am told it was until July of last year that Mr. Marceau had contacted the department. I am not aware of any time, three or four months before that so I will have to get back to the Member on that to be clear. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 241-13(5): Publication of Salaries and Wages

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In response to an oral question asked by me yesterday to the Premier, I had asked if the boards and agencies of the government were required to report their salaries as proposed in the motion of 1996. The Premier came back and said if I wanted, the Dene Nation, the Metis Nation, the Gwich'in Nation, Inuvialuit and Sahtu and everything like that. To clarify, Mr. Speaker, that was not my question. I would like to ask my question again, in the motion of 1996, would that include the boards and agencies of this government, the Government of the Northwest Territories?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 241-13(5): Publication of Salaries and Wages

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I do not know. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 241-13(5): Publication of Salaries and Wages

MR. PICCO:

When will he know?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could I have the Member clarify his question please?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Picco. Your second supplementary again.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, just for clarification purposes again, yesterday in the House I asked the Premier if the disclosure motion of 1996 included the boards and agencies of the government, the Government of

Page 618

the Northwest Territories. The Premier responded by saying I could write to NTI, all the boards, Dene Nation, Metis Nation, the Gwich'in, the Inuvialuit, the Sahtu, all these people, if the Member would choose, if that is what the Member is requesting. That is not what I requested. I had requested the boards and agencies of the Government of the Northwest Territories. My question was, would that motion be entailing them to disclose their salary dollars as asked in the motion? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 241-13(5): Publication of Salaries and Wages

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would have to look back to that motion to clarify whether or not it included those boards and agencies but the Members, Mr. Picco and Mr. Ootes, will be pleased to hear that we will be giving a statement on this, declaring these wages next week in this House. So then they will be able to take full credit for it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 241-13(5): Publication of Salaries and Wages

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the notice of motion and I have a copy of it right here in my hand, of May 8, 1996, was to disclose the contracts and

tenders and so on that are entered into by the government and then if the government would consider introducing legislation that would require a public disclosure of salaries of \$100,000. That was the motion. I wonder if the Minister in his response just now, is referring to this motion or is he referring to an earlier motion on accounts of the government? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 241-13(5): Publication of Salaries and Wages

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will check whatever motions there are on file, but we will be making a statement next week. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Enuaraq.

Question 242-13(5): Additional Funding for Teachers

MR. ENUARAQ:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be asking my question in Inuktitut. My question will be directed to the Minister of Education, the Honourable Charles Dent. In January of 1998, I received a letter from the Minister of Education. He had stated that there would be some funding allocated for extra teachers to be hired in Arctic Bay. My question to the Minister is this, is there going to be similar funding available to other communities that was made available to Arctic Bay? Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 242-13(5): Additional Funding for Teachers

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the department saves a portion of the grants that goes to the education councils until after we receive the final figures from October 31st telling us what the school populations were. If school populations are eight

percent higher than what had been projected, the funds can be reallocated to help those schools that are feeling the pressure to deal with the need for extra teaching staff. That is a process which is for all councils across the territories, so it was not just done on a school-by-school basis. The boards applied for it, depending on their need. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 243-13(5): Invitation to Visit Thebacha Riding

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Transportation, Public Works and Services. It is in relation to a number of community issues that I have discussed with the Minister, issues like possible program transfers of services like airports and highways to the community and issues like chip sealing. We have a number of major projects that we would like to discuss with the Minister. The Minister and I have discussed these issues, but my question to the Minister is, once we rise from this House, would he be willing to come to the community and meet with myself and the other community leaders on those particular issues? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 243-13(5): Invitation to Visit Thebacha Riding

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will be very glad to travel into the constituency of Thebacha, to Fort Smith to discuss these important issues with the community leaders, as well as to visit some of my constituents who are going to school there in the college. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 243-13(5): Invitation to Visit Thebacha Riding

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could I get the Minister to give me a general time line, would that be March? Without telling the Minister how to do his job, I would strongly encourage the Minister to take time to come down as well, as the new Minister of Public Works and Services, there

Page 619

are a good many qualified staff who I do not think have had the chance to meet with the Minister yet, in his new capacity. I think that would be greatly appreciated by the people of Thebacha. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 243-13(5): Invitation to Visit Thebacha Riding

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Yes, Mr. Speaker. I will be available once the House rises here at the end of this month and March would be a very good time for me to travel into the constituency. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 244-13(5): GNWT Office Lease Renewals

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question, Mr. Speaker, for the Minister of Public Works. The question is, the GNWT lease renewals in regard to the four office leases in Yellowknife, were they negotiated based on sole-sourced contracting or were they put in public tender?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 244-13(5): GNWT Office Lease Renewals

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the four office leases were renewals of the existing leases. It has

been renegotiated so it was not sole-sourced or public tender, it was just renewal of the leases. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 244-13(5): GNWT Office Lease Renewals

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister tell me how long these leases are for?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 244-13(5): GNWT Office Lease Renewals

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you. The only one I am very familiar with is the Lahm Ridge Tower lease, Mr. Speaker, that is for eight years.

--Laughter/Applause

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

The other three, I will have to take as notice, because I am not very familiar with those other three. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 245-13(5): Legal Requirement for Contract Reporting

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Premier. It concerns the Financial Administration Act or the Finance Minister. I am wondering if there is any requirement under the Financial Administration Act presently, requiring the reporting of all contracts over \$5,000 as sole-sourced or negotiated.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 245-13(5): Legal Requirement for Contract Reporting

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we do that already. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 245-13(5): Legal Requirement for Contract Reporting

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the government is now reporting the contracts over \$5,000 as sole-sourced or negotiated. My question was, if there is a requirement within the Financial Administration Act to do that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 245-13(5): Legal Requirement for Contract Reporting

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that we have been doing that for years. I am not too sure if it is required under the Financial Management Act or not. I will take the question as notice and I will give the Member that information. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 246-13(5): Purchase of Computer Equipment

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services. It involves the purchasing of computer equipment for Keewatin communities, particularly my two communities Arviat and Baker Lake. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the nursing station will be receiving in Arviat 16 computers even

though they only have nine staff including the janitor. I am just wondering what the computers are for and who makes the decision to purchase such equipment? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Mr. Ng.

Page 620

Return To Question 246-13(5): Purchase of Computer Equipment

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we undertook to purchase computer equipment for health centres throughout the Northwest Territories this current fiscal year. I do not know the specifics as to where every individual unit was supposed to go. Obviously, I can find out. It was an initiative of the department in order to upgrade the equipment requirements globally across the territories, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. O'Brien.

Supplementary To Question 246-13(5): Purchase of Computer Equipment

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, are these computers that were purchased, were they publicly tendered?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 246-13(5): Purchase of Computer Equipment

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not know if it was a public tender or a public request for proposals but it was under one of those two methods, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 246-13(5): Purchase of Computer Equipment

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the health centre in Arviat, I know, is in need of certain medical equipment such as suction machines. Who would make the decision as to whether they would get this equipment or not? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 246-13(5): Purchase of Computer Equipment

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you. The capital requirements would be for community health centres, would go through the regional boards through capital small equipment. I believe, it is called contributions or program, that we provide. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Picco

Question 247-13(5): Contract Reporting by the GNWT

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask some questions on contracts let by this government. In the reporting of those contracts over \$5,000 by this government, can the Premier tell me if all contracts issued by this government are reported? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin, do you wish to respond?

Return To Question 247-13(5): Contract Reporting by the GNWT

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As far as I am aware, all contracts over \$5,000 are reported by the government. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 247-13(5): Contract Reporting by the GNWT

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Premier said that as far as he knows all contracts issued by this government are reported. Are they reported in that book as negotiated and sole-sourced? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 247-13(5): Contract Reporting by the GNWT

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All contracts are reported over \$5,000 in that book once again. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 247-13(5): Contract Reporting by the GNWT

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, does this government consider RFPs as tendered contracts? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 247-13(5): Contract Reporting by the GNWT

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A request for proposal is not a contract. We consider it a tender. It is a tender. It is another way of tendering a contract. It is a public proposal call. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 247-13(5): Contract Reporting by the GNWT

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if that is the case, then, does the RFPs fall under the tendering requirements and policies and guidelines of this government?

Page 621

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 247-13(5): Contract Reporting by the GNWT

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Request for proposals fall under the request for proposal's guidelines. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mrs. Groenewegen.

Question 248-13(5): Response Process Re: Unsuccessful Proponents

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Premier just a few moments ago referred to government contracting and the awarding of contracting and he said it would be normal if 20 people responded, 19 would be mad. Mr. Speaker, I talked to a lot of contractors and I am afraid that they would probably consider that not totally representative of how they feel because, in fact, in the public tender process, the 19 people who are unsuccessful have the opportunity of knowing why they are unsuccessful and they readily accept that they were unsuccessful. They know they were not low bid. In an RFP, could the Premier describe what the process is for responding to the unsuccessful proponents? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 248-13(5): Response Process Re: Unsuccessful Proponents

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On a request for proposals, if there is an unsuccessful bidder on a request for proposals, the department that has a request for proposals will meet with them to explain why they were unsuccessful. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 248-13(5): Response Process Re: Unsuccessful Proponents

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On a request for proposals is it not true that the RFP is not quite as objective of just lowest price? In fact, it is a more subjective review and it is based on more than just the price tendered? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 248-13(5): Response Process Re: Unsuccessful Proponents

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If it was just a simple price issue then it would be a simple tender. There are different considerations you have to take into consideration when you are looking at a request for proposals, for example, an office space in Hay River. You might be able to get an office space in Hay River for \$2 a square foot. It might not be very good office space or you might have to pay \$20 a square foot in Hay River for decent office space for your employees to work out of. All those things are taken into consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 248-13(5): Response Process Re: Unsuccessful Proponents

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad the Premier is so familiar with the leasing of office space in Hay River. Mr. Speaker, is there a formal appeal mechanism for

people who are unsuccessful on a RFP, who are unsatisfied with the answer or responses given to them by the different departments? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 248-13(5): Response Process Re: Unsuccessful Proponents

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My understanding is, there is no formal appeal process for request for proposals. I also understand that our government, the contractual departments, are working with the Construction Association to work out some concerns they do have about how people appeal, how do people know that this one person bid \$2 and another person bid \$20 and the one that got it bid \$20 but why? They have some legitimate concerns and they are working it out. Thank you

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 248-13(5): Response Process Re: Unsuccessful Proponents

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Mr. Speaker, I am led to believe there is a formal mechanism being proposed that will be proposed by this government. When would something like that be available? This was also raised, Mr. Speaker, during the mid-term review. Mr. Todd was asked these same questions. When would such a plan be forthcoming? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 248-13(5): Response Process Re: Unsuccessful Proponents

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Todd is working with the Construction Association and contractors in the Northwest Territories. We need to make some changes, it is my understanding, to request for

proposals, especially as it relates, if we are moving ahead at all on the P3. Then, you

Page 622

have to make sure that everything is very transparent so that people, if they have a concern when they bid on a job or they offer a service, can get answers if they are not successful. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Ootes.

Question 249-13(5): Refining the Request for Proposals Process

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am just going to speak for a moment on the RFPs and non-tendered contracts as well. That is the area of concern, Mr. Speaker. We are starting to realize that there are, in certain instances, a need for an RFP. The concern with the construction industry and those who are bidding on things is that they do not get a reply back as to why they did not win the contract. Therefore, they cannot improve their method of bidding when they do other bids. Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister can tell us if he will extend the review, if he will also extend it to other non-tendered processes such as negotiated contracts and sole-sourced where people know what the results are? They need feedback. Thank you

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 249-13(5): Refining the Request for Proposals Process

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Request for proposals are one way we go to a competitive process to get a service, whether it be offices or consultants. You need a service and the government goes out for a request for proposals. That is a competitive service. Any other way, Mr. Speaker, we go to strictly a tender call. Once you go to a tender call the lowest tender wins the job, as long as you apply or after you apply the Business Incentive Policy. Then, through the negotiated contracts everything in the negotiated contracts has to be public. It is part of the policy of this government. It has to be 100 percent northern

and it has to benefit that community. It has to be local hire and it has to be public. If we do a negotiated contract in Yellowknife you have to say how much it is. You have to tell people about it. That is the way it is. You do not negotiate with two different parties for one contract at all. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. He has also answered a lot of your questions too, Mr. Picco. Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 250-13(5): Rationale for Increase in Request for Proposals

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Premier. Two months ago in this House I gave Mr. Arlooktoo's department copies of RFPs in my community. My question is, why is there such a prevalence of RFPs? Right now, there is something like three to one RFPs requested instead of public tenders. Why the propensity? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 250-13(5): Rationale for Increase in Request for Proposals

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I remember seeing that document because I was out in the hallway. It was given to Mr. Arlooktoo, he was the Minister in charge of DPW at that time, Mr. Speaker. I am sure all the documents are given over to Mr. Antoine, who is now the Minister of DPW. I am sure the Member will get an answer very shortly on that issue. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco

Supplementary To Question 250-13(5): Rationale for Increase in Request for Proposals

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I only refer to that document. My question was, why this propensity of RFPs? I think there is three to one now for public tender. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 250-13(5): Rationale for Increase in Request for Proposals

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not know if it is three to one. I do know, where it is an outright tender when the government knows they need to buy ten boats they go to tender. When the government needs for the private sector to respond to the government's need and is unsure how they are going to respond, then you go to request for proposals. You calculate everything and then, you award through a competitive process. It is just simply government. Good government. What more can I say? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 250-13(5): Rationale for Increase in Request for Proposals

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There has been a lot of talk in the House about accountability and transparency. I wonder if the Premier would commit to the House to, indeed, look into why there is such a prevalence of RFPs over publicly tendered contracts? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 250-13(5): Rationale for Increase in Request for Proposals

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The competitive process of request for proposal and a public tender process, I will look at the numbers and compare them. Thank you.

Page 623

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Picco

Supplementary To Question 250-13(5): Rationale for Increase in Request for Proposals

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Premier commit to asking the individual departments the number of RFPs that are being issued as opposed to publicly tendered? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 250-13(5): Rationale for Increase in Request for Proposals

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will make that information available in the House. I will table it in the House.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Question period is over. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Ootes.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Tabled Document 38-13(5): Letter of Support for Hay River MLA from Hay River Residents

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a letter that was sent to all MLAs. It has 105 signatures.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Mr. Arlooktoo.

ITEM 15: NOTICES OF MOTIONS FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

BILL 10-13(5): Miscellaneous Statutes Amending Act, 1998

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, February 9, 1998, I will move that Bill 10, Miscellaneous Statutes Amending Act, 1998, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. 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, 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); Tabled Document 19-13(5). With Mrs. Groenewegen in the Chair.

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

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

I would like to call the committee of the whole to order. We have a number of items on the agenda before us. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Madam Chairperson, that we continue with Bill 8, Appropriation Act, 1998-99, Committee Report 02-13(5) and Committee Report 03-13(5) and that we continue with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. We will proceed then with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. I will refer Members to their main estimates books. We are on page 4-8, emergency services. Could I ask the Minister if she would like to take the witness table and bring in her witnesses?

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I will.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

We will break for 15-minutes. Thank you.

--Break

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

I would like to call the committee to order. I would like to ask the Minister if she could please introduce her witnesses for the record? Thank you.

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. To my left is Penny Ballantyne, my deputy minister and to my right is my ADM, Vern Christensen and Chris Keeley, director of finance. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Minister Thompson. We are still on page 4-8 from yesterday. We had Mr. Krutko's name next on the list. We are on MACA, emergency services. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Regarding emergency services when I left off yesterday, I was asking the question regarding having the water consumption in communities to ensure that the fire trucks and the systems you have are tested to know if there is adequate water flow and also water capacity within the water tanks or treatment facility. Regarding floods, I made reference last spring in Aklavik of looking at the possibility, when you do your development capital plans, of looking at the developing infrastructure roads or residential development where you have enough drainage capacity if a flood does hit, there is minimum damage to property and what not. Who does that work taking that into account in regard to emergency services? Do they look at it in the planning stage to ensure all of that is done in the case of Aklavik if there ever was an emergency? They do not have a gravel source within the community or materials to block off a culvert system so that the water does

Page 624

not flood the school or the water treatment plant. There is not enough gravel around it. Things like that have to be taken into account when you do your planning. You have to be able not only to respond to an emergency, but also design the community so that it can take an impact of such an emergency.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Ms. Thompson.

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I think that is more of a statement. I did not get a question.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you. Mr. Krutko, did you want the Minister to respond to your comments?

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. That was a question in the context of what is being done to ensure there are emergency measures taken in the planning stages of community plans when developing infrastructure in a community such as roads, facilities, banking, ditching, foundation for buildings or structure of the water treatment plants so that it is protected against any floods. The extent of the damage is minimized by the development planning that is put into a community when you basically look at the whole community development plans that you do have to ensure these things are there when they happen.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Ms. Thompson.

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I am going to refer the question to my ADM.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Mr. Christensen.

MR. CHRISTENSEN:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The issue of building infrastructure, recognizing events such as flooding in Aklavik, are addressed in a number of ways through the community development planning process. Account is taken of the fact that Aklavik is susceptible to flooding. Requirements of the local drainage system to accommodate that possibility are accounted for. I suspect though, in some instances, the cost to deal with that event can be high. There would be cost and benefit considerations to weigh in the decision-making as to what is actually to be done. The design of the water treatment facilities or the water supply facilities, there certainly is in the design of the storage volumes for the tankage and the treatment capacity of the water supply system and the

location of the sewage lagoons and solid waste sites in Aklavik. The fact that flooding does occur is taken into account and affects the storage volume that is put in place.

Regarding the location and protection of buildings against flooding, there has been flood risk reduction mapping done for communities which are flood prone along the Mackenzie Valley, including Aklavik. Recognizing when there is a flood, probably, the largest part of Aklavik is covered in water. There are areas of Aklavik that are more or less prone to damage and to flooding into high water. There are requirements that are applied by CMHC in setting the foundation level for buildings and the separation of electrical systems in buildings to account for hazards that would occur with water during flood situations. Those standards are also applied in setting the elevations for foundations in the basic municipal infrastructure, like water facilities. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Christensen. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. You mentioned the risk reduction plans. Are those available to each of the communities? Where do you acquire a copy of those plans here in Yellowknife?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you. Mr. Christensen.

MR. CHRISTENSEN:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I believe the maps are generally available from the federal Department of Environment. However, we could certainly arrange for copies of the maps to be provided to the community. I am sure that all of the affected communities would have maps in their records in the hamlet offices, for example.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Christensen. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The risk reduction plans is just a map. You mentioned earlier in your statement that when you are building, you take into

account that your electrical fixtures have to be so high off the ground and if you are on pilings or whatever. If someone was going to build a housing unit in Aklavik, the cost of building a house is probably going to be more than a house in some other community because of having to fill in all these extras of having it on pilings. The electrical system has to be off the ground. Who pays the cost associated with that because of the flood plain the community is located on? Is that an additional cost to the consumer? Is that a cost that is picked up by the association or the municipality?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Christensen.

MR. CHRISTENSEN:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The cost of that is borne by the agency or individuals building the project in question.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Christensen. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The whole role of the question I am asking is because for a number of years, looking at the statistics, Aklavik has been underfunded, especially where it comes to funds to develop roads. The

Page 625

things I am talking about are if they had the monies to basically do the right improvements to the drainage system and upgrading their wharf around the edges regarding the corrosion around the rivers. Right now, the community has been trying to get the gravel stock piled in the community. In case of an emergency they know that if they have the gravel on site and if they had to move materials to protect a certain facility, it is there in the community. Right now, they do not have that. There is no money in the budget. There has not been any money for years. One of the big problems Aklavik is having is that they do not have the money for putting pads down to put pilings on for the local person to be attracted to get these housing units. You have to be in a pretty high wage bracket because you have to pay these costs. If planning was done right and the resources were there in the community to ensure that there is some sort of a protected measure in place, they know the water in the community will

not be as drastic if they had some sort of a plan or a protected measure to ensure that there will be adequate run off. If there was a culvert where the flow could have went through versus blocking off the water where it will back up into the community, everybody then, is affected.

These plans were not done years ago in regard to the planning, not having the adequate resources when a lot of these facilities were constructed. Basically, you are stuck with trying to look at alternative measures to compile the emergency versus being proactive and making sure that it is built into the community and having the resources there to carry out these different functions of making sure your drainage system is right. You have enough distance between the low water level versus the high rate. You are talking 300 feet in some cases which is how fast the water will rise at any one time. You have to take that into consideration. The cost to this government in the long term of losing the water facility or the school or even the airport facility is a cost not only to the people, but to this government who have to pick up that cost. I am saying that knowingly, these incidents do happen and we should be finding ways of protecting the infrastructure in the communities for the government itself. Those assets belong to this government which we are paying for. To replace those assets, it is going to be a lot more than what is there right now.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Ms. Thompson.

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I would like to thank the Member for all the information he is giving us. He knows his communities very well. If this is a priority of their hamlet, they can forward all the information to us and we can assess the problem. Up to now, we have not had an urgency from the hamlet written to us in this regard. I would like to thank the Member for all the information he is giving us. It is very useful to my department. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Next on the list, I have Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. In relation to emergency services, I was reading the literature here that is part of the budget. I would like the Minister to

clarify for me the role or the functions related to the fire marshal in his office and all these other functions related to drowning, boating accidents, search and rescue and all that type of activity. Are these newly added on as a result of the disbanding of Safety and Public Services? Were there resources, if that was the case, that came along with that? I noticed, looking at your PY complement, that you only have 159 staff and you have a very heavy mandate in the area of community development in other critical areas. Could the Minister elaborate whether these are new duties, do they have the resources? The underlying concern being, Madam Chairperson, that are we stretching what is supposed to be the lead department in the regions, even though they only have 159 staff, too thin on the ground because they are doing too many duties and they will not have the horses to do the work? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Ms. Thompson.

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you. Madam Chairperson, I would like to thank the Member for his observation. We have quite a lot of responsibilities as the Members may know now. We have gained a lot more responsibilities than before. I will ask my deputy minister to elaborate more on that, how these functions have affected the department and also the staff because we do have a lot more responsibilities added on to MACA with the small personnel we have. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Ms. Ballantyne.

MS. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Madam Chairperson, when the basic functions were transferred to MACA, that would be a year ago last November that they came over, they did come over with some resources for budgets for salaries and wages for the staff and the positions that were transferred to us, as well as some operations and maintenance dollars that came with the functions. I think it is fair to say that in this area, there is much more that could be done if we had more resources to work with and I think that the staff in this area do work very hard to try to cover off a number of difficult program areas in the communities. It is a challenge, when there is only one assistant fire marshal in each

region to try to cover off a whole range of related functions. I think we are fortunate that we do have some very well qualified and dedicated staff who do work very hard to try to meet all the commitments. Could we do more, with more resources? Absolutely. Are we stretched thin? We are stretched thin. Are we meeting the essentials of the mandate that we currently have? Yes, but it certainly is a stretch. The staff are working very hard in this area to cover off the basics. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Ms. Ballantyne. I have Mr. Ningark.

Page 626

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Madam Chairperson, on the emergency services, the third paragraph talks about public safety, fire safety inspections, enforcement, safety regulations and one area that we have often overlooked, public education program. Not all members of the household in any given home in my area know how to operate a hand operated fire extinguisher. For instance, a unilingual person is not able to read in English and when a fire extinguisher is provided, it is provided with the instruction on that fire extinguisher. Having the knowledge of how to operate a small fire extinguisher that is provided in the public unit or in the private home is very important, especially when that person, knowing how to operate it, has as the ability to extinguish a fire before it becomes a problem. I know many years ago, in my home, local volunteers used to visit homes. I do not see that anymore. Is the fire marshal's office providing a regular update training for people who are living in homes, having the ability to operate a fire extinguisher. It may be simple, but there are cases whereby individuals in the household are not able to operate a fire extinguisher. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Ms. Thompson.

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. That is a very good suggestion. I am also aware that unilingual members in our communities do not know how to operate these fire extinguishers and maybe not only those individuals, but other people in the communities. I will have the fire marshal assess this and see what we

can do to educate the public in that area. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Again, with emergency services, can the Minister maybe advise us if the Disaster Assistance Program has funds there or requirements for financial assistance. How is that obtained in the event of disasters?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Ms. Thompson.

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I will refer that question to my deputy minister.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you. Ms. Ballantyne.

MS. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I do not have the actual policy here with me, but I can indicate that there is a disaster assistance policy in place and it is intended to provide financial assistance to help residents or small businesses or community governments recover from the effects of a disaster. The assistance does not cover full compensation for damages or losses and it does not replace coverage that might be available through insurance or other programs. Generally, what happens if there is a disaster, is that the Minister would strike a disaster assistance committee to review the situation and to bring back a recommendation for disaster assistance in accordance with the policy. The Minister would then forward that recommendation to Cabinet for review and approval. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Ms. Ballantyne. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Could the Minister advise if there is a fund set up for this purpose or is it on as required basis? Is it handled through special warrants? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Ms. Ballantyne.

MS. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Madam Chairperson, there is no budget established for disasters being unplanned events. We do not keep a budget line for this. It is done through Cabinet. So it would either be special warrant, extraordinary funding or a supp if there would be adequate time to do that. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Ms. Ballantyne. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Finally, on this, does the department have any rough numbers in the use of this particular program or funds in the last few years? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Ms. Ballantyne.

MS. BALLANTYNE:

Madam Chairperson, in the two years that I have been with MACA, we have not disbursed any funds under this policy. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Ms. Ballantyne. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

If I may, Madam Chairperson, Ms. Ballantyne had mentioned that if disasters occur and they are covered by insurance, the department may provide some assistance over and above that. What would happen in the event of a disaster where someone did not have any insurance at all? Would someone be eligible for access to this program?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Ms. Ballantyne.

MS. BALLANTYNE:

Madam Chairperson, on that point, I would prefer to check the policy to be able to answer the Member's

question accurately. So perhaps we could undertake to get that information to Mr. Henry. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Ms. Ballantyne. Mr. Henry.

Page 627

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I would appreciate that information. We have had some disasters for individuals or business, particularly in a fire situation, here in Yellowknife. I would certainly be interested in finding out if there was any access for individuals who were not covered by insurance, some access to this program and what their relationship is to items that they may have paid out. I know there has been nothing in the past two years. I would be interested in knowing what was paid out in the communities. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

No question, just a comment. Next on the list, I have Mr. Steen. We are on page 4-8, emergency services, Municipal and Community Affairs, operations and maintenance. Mr. Evaloarjuk.

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under emergency services, I would like to ask a question. There is a situation probably about once a month. I know that the communities themselves deal with these emergency situations, but sometimes, if they have to hire a plane to look for an individual, and although there are RCMP that can assist with the search and rescue as well as the army, I think there is a policy that there are so many hours, I think it is 24 hours after the person is reported missing, before they can finally go and find the individual who is lost. Is this 24 hours in effect or can individuals or search and rescue go search before the 24 hours is up? Thank you. (Translation ends)

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Evaloarjuk. Ms. Thompson.

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Yes, the Member's question is very important and I thank the Member for asking the question. The RCMP has a

policy, but we do not have the policy of the RCMP with us at this time. The policy talks about how many hours they wait before they search for the people who are lost. I will get back to the Minister after I get information from the RCMP. Thank you. (Translation ends)

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Ms. Thompson, anything further? Mr. Evaloarjuk.

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) Yes, I thank the Minister for the response because quite a few times the community members themselves or the hamlet do not have a plane to search for people who are lost. I wanted to tell the Minister so that she can encourage the people who are doing the search and rescue with planes, to do it as soon as possible. Thank you. (Translation ends)

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Evaloarjuk. Ms. Thompson.

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I will look into this and get back to the Member before the end of the session. I will get it from the RCMP. Thank you. (Translation ends)

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Next I have Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Madam Chairperson, Mr. Evaloarjuk's question is part of the reason I was asking the Minister yesterday as to the department's involvement now in search and rescue. As Mr. Evaloarjuk was trying to point out, the RCMP have a 24-hour waiting period in place before they will send any of their aircraft up, or at their expense. I think what he was trying to find out was whether or not MACA or whoever is running this search and rescue program would have a different policy whereby aircraft would be able to be sent out right away. My point here is that this is to some degree causing a lot of confusion in the communities as to who is responsible any more for what.

I do not understand why all of a sudden, MACA pondered that they had to take over search and

rescue programs. They were being run by the hunters and trappers. They were being implemented through the Rangers. I do not understand why MACA now sees it as they have to have it under their mandate. Obviously, at some point in time, somebody is going to ask MACA to pay the costs because they implemented the program and therefore, they should bear the cost. We all know that search and rescue does not necessarily apply just to the communities. Search and Rescue involves tourists and everybody else who gets lost.

This whole concept of search and rescue under MACA mandate, I question that because I always understood MACA's responsibility was within the municipal boundaries. I think we are overloading MACA with all this stuff. My own personal opinion is that, I do not know, even if MACA says we take on the responsibility and we are just hoping by doing this we establish that the hamlet would put together the program of search and rescue. Then we have to take into consideration that the hamlets are already getting overworked with programs as well, whether they have adequate staff to put all these plans together.

I believe the emergency response plan, as such, was strictly applicable to municipal boundaries. I do not understand. Perhaps the Minister could give me some clarification how this responsibility ever got passed on to them how is it affecting them and where did it come from? Whose responsibility was it before? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Steen. Ms. Thompson.

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The responsibility came from the regional directors. It used to be the responsibility of the regional directors and somebody had to do it. That is how it came under MACA. I realize that MACA's roles and responsibilities for search and rescue are not always understood. MACA's role is to support the training and establishment of local search teams and work with communities to establish search and rescue as a component of the local emergency response plan. I truly understand where the Member is coming from and I

thank him for his observation. It came from the regional directors position. Thank you Madam Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Madam Chairperson, is the Minister then suggesting that although they organize the response, and it is part of the emergency measures plan for the community, implementation of the plan is what I am getting at here, the decisions to implement a search, it still lies with the hunters, trappers and rangers? For instance, where to look in the first place? I am not suggesting hamlet councils may not know where to look for this person, but it would seem to be more appropriate that this type of decision would be made by people who are involved in the overall knowledge about the overall area. That is what I am getting at, Madam Chairperson, if the Minister could explain that.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Steen. Ms. Thompson.

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. There are different agencies that are involved in the search and rescue responsibilities. I have already stated the fact that MACA's role is to provide training and the other things that I have said. There is also the RCMP. The RCMP is the first public agency to be contacted to start a search. We all know that the community on their own, as Mr. Evaloarjuk said, starts a search because they go ahead and organize themselves. There is also the Canadian Forces whose primary responsibility is for air search and rescue and marine responses on coastal waters. I will ask my deputy minister to elaborate on this as she knows more about this with the details. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Ms. Ballantyne.

MS. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Madam Chairperson, as the Minister has indicated, there are a number of agencies who work together when there is a search and rescue situation in effect in a

community. The other group that is worth mentioning are the Rangers which I think the Member has also alluded to. The Rangers can also be used for search and rescue. There is a formal arrangement that is established in the Department of National Defence policy for military assistance to civil authorities. It is under that National Defence policy that Rangers assistance can be accessed for search and rescues.

There are local search and rescue committees established in many communities which include representatives of all of these groups. Our role, again, is to provide training for those local teams and to establish search and rescue as a component of their local emergency response plan. It is very much the local search and rescue committees that would make decisions about what should happen in a search and rescue situation. MACA's role would be to provide any additional assistance or perhaps help with coordination, for example, in terms of contacting the Department of National Defence on behalf of a local search and rescue committee that required some additional assistance or contacting the coast guard or Canadian Forces if there was a rescue for air search and rescue on coastal waters.

The role we play is one of training support and then coordination in an actual situation. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Ms. Ballantyne. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I presume all this information is made available to the public by posters or some way so that people know who they have to contact if, in fact, they want to implement or have someone or their relatives looked for. I know for certain that in some particular communities it is not clear who you contact. People phone the RCMP; they say phone this guy. By the time they make up their mind and finally find out who to get a hold of, half of the day is shot. When you only have three hours of daylight, half a day is a lot. It is the whole day.

It is important that this type of information is made available to the public. My other question would be in regard to MACA saying they supplied us training; they supplied us with the expertise to put this plan together. I thought I was aware of everybody in MACA and their positions in the region. I have to ask the

question, who in the region is responsible for this?
What is the title of this specific bureaucrat?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Steen. Ms. Thompson.

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The regional superintendents in each region are the point of contact for this. We do have a senior staff at the territorial level who does all the training. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Mr. Steen, I believe that has been ten minutes, but we could come back to your questions. I have on the list, Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. My question is in regard to an issue that was raised yesterday by Mr. Miltenberger and also by Mr. Henry a while back. Madam Chairperson, every week it seems we hear about some adventurer who is doing something more ridiculous than the next person trying to break records and what not: going to the North Pole by bicycle, up the Mackenzie River in a rubber raft, hot air balloons trying to travel around the world or sail boat racers going around one ocean to the next. It seems to me they have absolutely no regard for which country or which jurisdiction has to pay to save them when they get lost or something happens. Yesterday the response to Mr. Miltenberger's question was that we do not make people post

Page 629

bonds if they are trying to reach the North Pole or anything like that.

I believe it does not matter who winds up searching for these people, whether it is the RCMP, the Armed Forces, community people or the Rangers; it is we, as tax payers in general, who are paying for this. It is time for the people like this to start paying their own way. I would ask whether the Minister would undertake to again contact RWED and the Department of Justice and attempt to ensure that some type of bond or something is put in place so that people who take unnecessary risks like this have to actually pay for their own emergency services and getting rescued.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Ms. Thompson.

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Actually, this has been brought forward to me orally by the elders when I was visiting the High Arctic because that is where all these tourists go to or people trying to get to the North Pole. I have heard comments made by our elders and also skilled hunters saying that we are having problems with our young people who do not have enough skills, getting lost on the land. Now we have these people coming up with ski suits and stuff, trying to get to the North Pole. I will definitely work with the other two departments to try to deal with this issue. It is becoming a problem, but we do not want to stop these people. I understand what the Member is saying. We want to promote tourism into our communities and into our areas because it is a beautiful country. This concern has already been brought forward orally in the communities. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Obviously, we would not want to detract from our tourism industry. It is a very young industry. It does employ a lot of people and bring a lot of dollars to the north, but I believe we have to ensure that there are not people out there who are taking unnecessary risks and not ensuring that they take some responsibility for their actions. With that, Madam Chairperson, I have no other questions, but I just wanted to make that point. Of course, we do not want to detract from our tourism industry but to ensure that people who are taking unnecessary risks are actually taking responsibility. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, for that comment, Mr. Erasmus. Did you want the Minister to respond to that? I will move on to the next person on the list. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Yes, thank you, Madam Chairperson. In relation to what Mark Evaloarjuk, my colleague, my friend and Mr. Steen were referring to, the 24-hour wait, which I

think was initially introduced down south, not in the north of 60 area. Our environment is much different. We have no highways in this area. We have no trees whereby we can find a shelter or use wood for fuel and so on. There are times down south where people may wander off in the city and not report home that they are out somewhere or there are times where people run away down south. However, in the Arctic, in a small community there is no place to run away to except the tundra. When a person files a missing person report in a small community, we have to ensure that person is taken seriously by the community as always, by the RCMP, by other parties in the area of search and rescue.

It is time to introduce a new search and rescue program in north of 60. When a person files a missing person report, we all know that person is serious. When a person goes out, there are times when people talk about a buddy system, two snow machines going out together. The hunter who is going out reports or tells a family member or a friend, or anyone for that matter in the community which direction that person is going, indicating at what time that person is coming back. We all know, as Mr. Steen indicated, that when we wait for half a day, we only have two or three hours of daylight in the dead of winter, December, January and February. We should start looking very seriously at introducing the kind of search and rescue program that is tailored to this part of this country because initially what we go by now, according to RCMP, is the program that was introduced down south, not in the north. We need a search and rescue program made in the north, for the north. Will the Minister talk to her colleague, in this case the Minister for Justice, about the possibility of introducing a new way of doing things. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Ms. Thompson.

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I would like to thank the Member for his suggestions and I will be looking into it. We all know that young people need skills and they have to be educated. That is part of the training we do, educate the public. One of the suggestions that was made by my father, who is unilingual, an 80-year old hunter, he suggested, and this is something that I will be looking to do, is to develop courses on the GPS, Global Positioning System, because there have been cases already where the young people not knowing the land, come home after they have been

searched for, by using the little gadget and walking into town, but there are so few of them that know this. It is a very technical computer gadget that if it is learned, anybody can find their way home. These are some suggestions that have come forward. I just have not had a chance to talk to my department yet on that, but we will do what the Member is suggesting. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. What does need education in this area is the system that provides training and search and rescue, having public in the community level educated in the precautions they have to take. Secondly, Madam Chairperson, if a person depends upon GPS for travel,

Page 630

technology I do not know in the tundra, a man-made gadget, there could be something wrong with that thing, regardless of new technology; we have to ensure that we have search and rescue made by the communities, by this jurisdiction and for this jurisdiction, for the communities. That is what I was saying. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Ms. Thompson.

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Yes, I understand where the Member is coming from, but what I am saying is that we can use the technology today and blend the two cultures together to make something effective that the young people understand. Most of these young people who are coming can use technology today. I will take the suggestion from the Member and deal with it. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, I thank the honourable Minister for that. In my area, we have what we would call, a group of people who are capable, competent in looking for a

lost person in the tundra, a community rescue committee. I do not know who funded this organization or group of people, but I am wondering if the Minister is aware of what we call a community rescue committee. If yes, who provides funding for this body because this body needs funding in order to have gasoline and other provisions in the event of search and rescue in the tundra. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Ms. Thompson.

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. MACA provides the training and establishment of the local search team. I know that this issue has been brought forward by the Inuit communities where the search and rescue teams do not have enough funds for fuel and equipment and so on, and they have to do their own fund raising. I will look into this.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you. Finally, Madam Chairperson, I thank the Minister again. When an organization in a small community is not adequately funded, the only place to look for funding is bingo. In the community of Pelly Bay, we have a number of organizations that are trying to get their own funding. With the limited amount of dollars in the community everybody plays bingo in order to raise money. It is very addictive to play bingo, so I think we should realize that. Somehow, we have to provide funding for the search and rescue. It is the first point from the community. If a person goes to the RCMP, you have 24-hours of waiting. The first point of contact in a small community is the search and rescue, and that body should be funded. Search and rescue is a serious matter in a Nunavut area. I do not know how serious it is down south, but in the Arctic where you have almost 24 hours of darkness and extreme environment, it is a very serious matter. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Would you like the Minister to respond to that comment? Ms. Thompson.

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you. On behalf of the search and rescue teams across the territories, I would like to thank the Member. I realize this is a very serious matter. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Ms. Thompson. On the list, I have Mr. Steen, Mr. Rabesca, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Enuaraq. I do not believe we have heard from the last three names, so we will go next to Mr. Rabesca who has not spoken yet. We are on Municipal and Community Affairs, emergency services. Mr. Rabesca.

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. My concern is regarding the fire marshals and fire protection. I am quite concerned about the community level, communities that I represent. Is there any inventory on the fire equipment that currently exists in the communities, such equipment as fire trucks and possibly fire halls, if they all are up-to-date or are they new, in working order. What types of equipment do we have or inventory within our community, especially within my North Slave riding? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Rabesca. I will ask the Minister to respond to that but the particular area you are questioning about comes up under community operations. Ms. Thompson.

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I am informed that MACA's assistant fire marshals regularly visit the communities and inspect local fire halls and equipment. Then they make recommendations to the communities on how to correct any of the problems. The assistant fire marshal is available to offer training assistance on specific equipment requests. If a community has equipment concerns, they should contact their assistant fire marshal. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Do you have any further questions or comments under emergency services, Mr. Rabesca? Mr. Enuaraq.

MR. ENUARAQ:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I also have a comment with regard to emergency services. Search and rescue issues in my community and other communities are also taken very seriously. I was very happy to hear Madam Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs talking about global positioning systems, as well as satellite beacons that are used by the younger people today. This is very encouraging. Even if you have a GPS, if the weather is bad and the wind is strong, you cannot go anywhere with the GPS system. I have used this myself, even

Page 631

as an older person. If you depend on the GPS system, you cannot continue to travel in bad weather. In the Baffin region, there was an incident where we lost four hunters. This was near Clyde River. Because of incidents like these and because of the unpredictable weather climate changes in our communities, we want to have proper plans in place so we can use these plans when we have to do certain rescues in our communities. As well, when we are doing search and rescue, we have to keep in touch with Iqaluit. I would also like to support the comments that were made by my honourable colleague, Vince Steen, as well as John Ningark. I would like to support their comments. That is all I wanted to say. Madam Chairperson, I do not mind not receiving an answer to this. This is going to be a general comment. Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (Translation ends)

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Enuaraq. I have Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. To follow up on comments Mr. Ningark made regarding a program or policy that would be better suited for northerners, a program that would be as it relates to search and rescue that we made in the north for northerners. I could not agree with the Member more. We hear stories of individuals being lost on the land, and unfortunately they passed on, they died. The families would wait for the body to be brought back to the community. They would be told they would have to wait for hours and sometimes the next day because the RCMP, for example, would have to also go out there and verify the circumstances of the death and so on and so forth which causes a great deal of pain for the families.

Moving on, a question regarding funding for the local search and rescue groups in the various communities, how is the funding calculated? How do you arrive at the amount? Does it vary from community to community, and who makes a decision as to which group receives the funding? There could be more than one search and rescue group in the community.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. Ms. Thompson.

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I will be asking my ADM to answer that question.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Mr. Christensen.

MR. CHRISTENSEN:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The amount of funding that we do provide for community searches is small. It is only up to \$1,000 unless there are extraordinary circumstances involved. The recipient group would be the group identified for that purpose out of the emergency response plan. All of the funding that would be flowing would be consistent with the approach set up through the emergency response plan. The coordinator for the emergency response plan is typically the senior administrative officer, and so the funding would flow through that individual as the coordinator of the search activity originated by the community. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Going back to Mr. Ningark's comments about developing a policy, a program or designing a program to deal with search and rescue in the north for northerners, what steps to date have been taken? We have heard the concerns that have been brought about in this House. We have heard them for many years. To date, what is taking place, if anything, as far as revamping or drawing up a new plan or program to deal with this critical issue of search and rescue?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Madam Minister.

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are different types of training that go on, and they are very good, made in the north search and rescue training. These are some examples; basic ground search and rescue, track awareness, search management, rigid hull inflatable operator training, marine search and rescue, inland water transport, ice rescue and ice diving. There are all sorts of training that has happened with this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have had requests over the last few years concerning the search and rescue groups; for example, in Baker Lake looking to form a regional body for search and rescue. For example, often times when there is somebody lost in Arviat, there are people from Baker who come to help search. They could be lost in between the communities, and they will require extra bodies or people to join in the search that may know the area better and so on and so forth. There are times when one or more communities get together for a better search. Is there any discussion or is there any intention of trying to form such a group where MACA would take the initiative to organize this type of a body? In some cases it would be more effective than just a small group of people leaving from Baker Lake to go and search. Weather is very critical. Time is of the essence, so the more out there in a coordinated approach would give a greater possibility of finding the individuals alive and safe. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Madam Minister.

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a first time I have heard the individual talk about it even though he said he has had a lot of requests regarding it. It is a very good suggestion. It is a very good question. There is some regional activity that is happening with this. I will be asking my ADM to bring that to light. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. O'Brien. I understand the assistant deputy minister is to elaborate further here.

Page 632

MR. CHRISTENSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are emergency response plans that are developed at the community level. There are also regional emergency response plans, and the development of those regional emergency response plans is coordinated by our superintendent of Municipal and Community Affairs in the region. What they attempted to do with the regional emergency response plans was to identify resources that are available within other departments of the government and other agencies that work within the regions to support communities in dealing with emergencies including missing persons and other types of situations when that is needed. It seems like a good suggestion, and I am not sure whether it has been covered at this point or not, but the whole idea of involving communities as a group as a resource to support the regional emergency response plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Before I recognize Mr. O'Brien, I am getting a signal from Madam Minister that she wants to speak.

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that the search and rescue people in the Keewatin region have been doing search and rescue activities for quite a long time, and the people that I know, like in Rankin, Harry Towtongie and Tikik, a whole bunch of them already have a plan amongst the hunters that might not be written, but they do have a plan. They do know that Arviat has to contact Whale Cove and so on. They have been doing that for as long as I remember. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In reference to the Minister's reply, I did not indicate that I approached her on this issue. I think that is really irrelevant. The comment I made was, is this being considered? I

think that is a fair question. This issue was raised by an elder, an avid search and rescue individual who has been involved for many years, a hunter and trapper out of Baker Lake and it is Mr. John Nukik Sr. It is my understanding that they did make advances toward the Minister's department. Their office would be in Rankin, I believe, seeking to find out if this was a possibility to help them form such a group. With that in mind, my question is somewhat unanswered. I am asking the department if they would consider possibly having a meeting with the various groups to try to formalize such a situation. It would not be necessary that a region would get involved in every search. It may not be necessary at all, but in some cases, I am sure they could use the help and if it were done in a coordinated fashion, it would be that much more efficient and effective. It could save a life. That is a comment. The question I have is, are there any guidelines that we provide as a government through your department, when an individual is lost, how long they wait to go out? We know we had situations where people were lost and as the day passes, and it seems in some cases where, if the group had been out sooner, or the government or the RCMP had been involved, possibly a life could have been saved. Do we have such a mechanism built into our plans or regulations and is that something that we should be considering?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Madam Minister.

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have someone contact John Nukik Sr. and tell him that he had contacted MACA and they had not responded. I have quite a few elders, Barnabas Pirjuak in Baker Lake, who can contact this individual and talk with him on a personal basis and see what has happened here. I do listen to all the elders. It is unfortunate my staff did not listen to him. This is a very good idea. We will bring it up in the regional leadership meeting which is coming up in the Keewatin. For the other part of his question, I will ask my staff to answer. Vern will answer the other part of the question. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Assistant deputy minister.

MR. CHRISTENSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As far as the policy is concerned, my understanding is, we do not have a policy per se on the timing for searches of missing persons. The department takes its lead from the RCMP who are the lead agency in dealing with that issue, but we work closely with them, of course. We are involved with the RCMP in developing planning related to searches, but the lead department and the department that would be setting policy per se, would be the RCMP. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I have, Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I find it awfully offensive when I ask questions and I get the answer that, we have not heard anything back from the community. I am the one that is representing the Mackenzie Delta in this budget review. I am the only person that is sitting here from the Mackenzie Delta to have an opportunity to speak against the budget. Any questions we ask to the budget, in association as a Member of a riding, for her to challenge me and say she has not heard anything about it, or make a comment that I have to wait until I get something back from the community. I am the representative of that community. I am making a statement on behalf of that community and I would like the Minister to answer those questions as the Minister responsible for this portfolio. For her to tell me she has not received anything, if she wants to go through Hansard or look at motions that have been passed in the House on this particular issue in regard to the flooding situation in Aklavik, there are Member's statements I made in this House on the same matter in regard to the incident last spring and to documents that are filed by her department. The water treatment upgrade for Aklavik is in the budget review. One of the concerns they have is the quality of water they have in the springtime because of flooding. Mr. Chairman, I do not think it is appropriate for myself to have to reiterate exactly who I am, or who I represent and what right I have in this House as a Member. I do not think it is courteous of the Minister or her department to answer in such a manner to a Member of this

Page 633

Legislature who represents the constituents we represent. With that Mr. Speaker, I would like to report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. There is a motion on the floor to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Are you making a motion to report progress?

MR. KRUTKO:

I make a motion to report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. There is a motion on the floor to report progress and that motion is traditionally not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? Thank you. The motion is defeated. We will go back to activity summary of 1998-99 main estimates, emergency services, on Page 4-8. I have Mr. Steen. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, to continue my line of questioning earlier, I understand from the Minister and the department that the superintendent of MACA is responsible for coordinating emergency response plans for the communities. Mr. Speaker, all through MACA's budget and programs, this particular person, this superintendent, is being directed to do a lot of things. Is this position getting overloaded? Being a political person, I notice the particular superintendent in my region is beginning to get mowed over more and more as I see him. I think it is directly related to the amount of workload on his shoulders. You are overworking that guy, and I think it is the situation in every one of your positions, in every region. I do not know personally whether the department and this government may want to reconsider who should be coordinating search and rescue as far as this government is concerned. I know what the department is trying to do. With all due respect to the hamlet councils and to the department, I thought this search and rescue was fairly well coordinated in the community through the hunters, trappers and the Rangers. Now, if you are, in fact, putting a plan together that applies to an area that applies outside the municipal boundaries, obviously, this is going to be a fair amount of expense that would not be addressed under emergency measures money from the federal government. Therefore, my question would be, for instance, in regard to the detailed plan that you have suggested is being put together for different types of search and rescue, water, marine and land, do the detailed plans identify who is going to pay for these costs?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Madam Minister.

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask my ADM to respond to the question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Christensen.

MR. CHRISTENSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The plans on how we can assist communities and other agencies can assist communities to respond to emergencies locally, these would be the regional emergency response plans. There would be a similar plan that is coordinated by our staff here in Yellowknife at a territorial level. The plan details a cooperative approach to dealing with emergencies. It does not indicate where the funding would come from for the searches or the costs, but represents a collaborative or volunteer effort to deal and assist with those types of events. In terms of funding for those events, they are dealt with as extraordinary, and costs that are incurred by the GNWT are consolidated into a submission which is considered by Cabinet or by the Financial Management Board. There are also other arrangements with the federal government through a disaster financial assistance arrangement in which the federal government helps to cost share some of those costs with us. Those are how some of the financial costs are addressed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Minister also referred to use of satellite navigation systems as a possible remedy to assist those who are not quite experienced in their navigations on the land. I believe to some degree, she may have been referring to emergency locator beacons which are now available to the public. As we have found out over the past two years, this could get very expensive in responding to these emergency locator beacons. If some plan is not in place, who is going to pay? You can push all the buttons you want, but nobody is going to come unless somebody knows who is going to pay. We have already had a situation in the Beaufort this past

summer where there was somebody who pushed a button and called for emergency location. I believe the RCMP responded with a charter. When they found out the guy was not in any emergency, they refused to pay for the charter, and suggested the charter aircraft owner collect from the guy that pushed the button. Unfortunately, the guy that pushed the button was Scandinavian, not a Canadian. As soon as he got back to the mainliner, he was back off to Scandinavia and the poor guy in Inuvik was left trying to find out who was going to pay for this. It has to be taken into consideration.

Page 634

I would still like to emphasize, Mr. Chairman, I am getting more and more concerned with the amount of responsibilities and duties this department is taking on, bearing in mind, the amount of manpower they have. Like I said, I am not sure we are not overworking these people and they are going to burn out on us. Then, we will have nobody. I am concerned in that manner. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Madam Minister.

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the Member's comments and concerns very much and he is making a very good point.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Are you okay with that, Mr. Steen? I move on to another Member. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I think this is a good opportunity, while we are under emergency services, to just retract a little bit and look at our disaster preparation plans that we have in place with this government. Recently, we have seen what happened in Quebec. They were not prepared. There were no blankets and so on. Under MACA we do have emergency services which should be preparing for disaster preparation and civil emergencies in the community.

Two weeks ago in Iqaluit we had a storm with 120 kilometre per hour winds for two days. What would happen in a situation like that, if the power had been lost at the power plant at -30C temperatures? Do we

have emergency evacuation plans in place? Do we have places where residents could go in case of an emergency? Do communities coordinate that kind of stuff through the Department of MACA? I would like to have some update this time on our civil disaster or emergency preparation plans which are actually in place or being put in place, or what type of priority we have on them? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Some of us could go back to building igloos. Thank you. Madam Minister.

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we do have a plan. I will ask my deputy minister to elaborate more on that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Madam deputy minister.

MS. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would just like to assure Members that included in community emergency response plans are our plans for evacuations in the event of power failure or any other emergency that might require the community be evacuated. We had an opportunity to put those plans to the test during the forest fires of a couple of years ago when we evacuated a couple of communities. Certainly, we know that in those cases, those plans did work. I would like to also just point out that in our 1998-99 business plan, we have identified a territorial joint support plan formalized as a new peace time plan, emergency response plan, for the Northwest Territories which is a national effort that is underway to make sure that all of the provincial and territorial plans do meet the national emergency response standards. To that end, we continue to ensure our regional superintendents receive upgrading and training in emergency response through the centre in Arnprior, Ontario, as well as through the national emergency response coordinating team. This ensures our superintendents' skills are sharp and that they are able to play that coordinating role. In addition, over the last couple of years, we have built emergency operating centres in each of the regional offices which are equipped with generators and radios to ensure that in the event of an emergency, our regional superintendents will be able to be in contact with hamlets and communities in their region to coordinate

any actions that would be required. I hope that information is helpful to the Member. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the plan is available to the EMO staff, but when you are at the community level and you are in the middle of a storm or whatever, how would the community itself, the residents, for example, in my community or anyone else's community, know where they are supposed to go during a power outage, a storm, freezing temperatures? Would they have places identified, like go to a school where they would have a generator, for example? Would you go to the EMO office? How does the department get that type of information out to the general public? It is nice that the EMO staff has that information, but how does the general public know? Once you get into a storm situation, I remember in the last case just around Christmas time when we had a blizzard in Iqaluit. If the power had gone off and you have 100 kilometres per hour winds and visibility is nil, what do you do? Where do you go? The question was asked to me when I was home. Where do we go? How do the people know where to go? How do they get transported there? Do they have blankets, food, heat, medical supplies, and so on? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Madam Minister.

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can only answer what I have experienced at the grassroots level in the communities that I have been to. I know in Repulse Bay, everybody is connected to the CB radio. Hardly anybody has a telephone. They do communicate where the people should be going to through CB radios. I know in Rankin, the local radio gets turned on, and then people are communicated with. It is the responsibility of the community on how they should be communicating to the people. In a bigger centre like Iqaluit, I would also be concerned where you cannot do this fast enough to communicate to a large population. I do know in the smaller communities, the communication is really well organized by the local people. There is a public education pamphlet that is being prepared by my department right now which is

in the process regarding this situation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Picco.

Page 635

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to see the department is having a pamphlet prepared. Hopefully, it will be program specific to each of the communities, even in smaller communities, when the power goes off. I remember when I lived in Clyde River, the power went off in half the town. We did not know where to go. There was a blizzard situation. The power was off and the airport runway lights could not come on and planes could not land. We had to get all the vehicles up at the airport to light the runway. There all different types of circumstances. Sometimes when the power goes off, the local radio cannot come on and you cannot get that information out. All I was trying to say is, if there is an emergency or people have to go to some place and congregate in some area, those centres where people could go, should be identified; for example, if it is a school, if it is an EMO office, if it is a government office building, and so on. Hopefully, when the pamphlet is done, maybe contact numbers for EMO could be on for each region so you could phone your EMO office and say, where do I go or can I get someone to come and get us? In a lot of communities, the larger communities and sometimes the smaller communities, you have people moving in and out who might not be aware of the things other people who have been there for a longer period of time know. I am wondering if the Minister and her department could actually look at making that type of information available on that pamphlet and what, in actuality, is going to be in this pamphlet that will be produced? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The honourable Minister.

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the Member for his observation. The pamphlet has already been distributed. We will improve where it needs to be improved. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the pamphlet has already been distributed, then it is too late to get notification on the pamphlet as to where to call. Maybe that is something that the EMO, through the department, could look at, letting people know in the communities what the EMO numbers are in case of emergencies and places to go again in case you had to abandon your homes? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Madame Thompson.

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we will do that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Emergency services, total operations and maintenance. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to know, are there any emergency plans in place in regard to water contamination, especially water problems we seem to have in the spring time? Are there any plans in place to deal with the possibility of contamination in water? How do you deal with that in the smaller communities?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Madam deputy minister.

MS. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, municipal water supply is regularly tested. Certainly, in any community where residents would be raising a concern about the quality of the water, the environmental health officer from the regional health board would soon be in to sample and to test the water supply. This is something that is done regularly. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not believe that was the question I asked. I asked what do you do in the case of an emergency where you have water contamination?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Through Madam Minister, I recognize deputy minister Ballantyne.

MS. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in just very quickly checking with Mr. Christensen, I do not believe we have ever had an incident in which the municipal water supply has been contaminated and been unable to be used at all. From time to time, there certainly would have been public health advisories, for example, on boiling, et cetera, if there has been some turbidity in the water or in the case where there is some temporary problem. I think the Member is asking me, do we have a plan in place to provide fresh water to community residents in case the municipal water supply would be contaminated to the extent that it could not be used. My answer would have to be no. We do not have a plan specific to that issue. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason I ask the question is because of a case in Fort McPherson, where the sewage truck on the Dempster Highway is adjacent to the water lagoon, which basically, is just a matter a couple of feet from the edge of the road which touches the lake. Fort McPherson's biggest concern was if the sewage truck ever had an accident at that corner along the lake and rolled into the lake, what backup system do they have and what plans do you have in case of an emergency? At that time, they were basically told there was not any and to not worry. That is why I asked the question again, but it seemed like since that question has been asked to the department, there are still no procedures in place to deal with that. Why is that? When do they expect to have something in place to ensure that is dealt with?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I have Mr. Krutko and Mr. Miltenberger. Madam Minister.

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know the Member has brought this up, not this particular sewage truck falling into the water, but the water situation in

Page 636

his community. I know my department has been working with different partners to deal with this issue. There have been guardrails put up in that area and we are dealing with the issue. It is an ongoing issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total operations and maintenance. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Mr. Chairman, it is good and dandy to put up guardrails, but when you are talking about large vehicles such as the sewage trucks or even a truck coming up the Dempster Highway carrying fuel, it does not take much for a vehicle to roll over that barrier which is only, not even a foot and a half off the ground. I think that still is a concern of the community. I would like to thank the Minister for noting that it was addressed and it was mentioned so that way she does not have to wait for a letter to come from the community to reply to. I would like to ask the Minister again, exactly what procedures are in place to ensure that in the case where water lagoons are practically next to major highway systems, what are they doing to ensure emergencies such as a vehicle going into the water source and having alternative plans in place to deal with it?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. We are heading into an area of environmental damage, Madam Minister.

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am going to ask my ADM to answer that. I would also like to note that this government works by paper, a lot of the things that happen are initiated by paper. I do not work on rumours. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. On the environmental aspect, Mr. Christensen.

MR. CHRISTENSEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There has been some of the improvements that were noted. The road that runs along the edge of the water lake has been widened. There has been a guard rail put up. It has been graded so if there was a spill of some kind, the spill would flow towards the sewage lagoon as opposed to the water lake in an attempt to make passage of vehicles along that section of the highway as safe as possible, and to minimize the risk of the event the Member is referring to. In that way, make it as safe as possible. The risk, we believe, is extremely small of contingency such as that, but there is a recognition that there is a risk there, and in the long term, there will need to be some work done there to correct that situation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total operations and maintenance. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to know in regard to the concerns raised in Fort McPherson in regard to this and the letters that have gone to the Minister and her department from the council and the mayor of Fort McPherson, what has been done in way of an action plan or the possibility of doing a review to ensure that all concerns have been addressed?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Madam Minister.

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are we still on emergency measures? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Are we dealing with total operations and maintenance? Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Mr. Chairman, I do not know what other way you can interpret emergency, I mean, emergency is something that happens when there is a crisis on your hands, regardless if it is a fire, contamination of water or a flood, an emergency is an emergency. You need a way of interpreting it? That is probably as close as you can get. I think the topic I was talking on is

classified as an emergency. I would like to know what measures have been taken to ensure that if there is an incident where an emergency happens, where the community of Fort McPherson's water supply is polluted because of a vehicle ending up in an accident, what is the department going to do to resolve this? I believe she has been around when I raised a concern about Aklavik and now I am raising a concern about Fort McPherson and I do not think the question is that...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Yes, sorry to interrupt. I will recognize the clock. Before I recognize the clock, (Translation) I would like to recognize in the gallery, Mark Evaloarjuk's wife, Louise, and their adopted child. Thank you. Welcome to the House. (Translation ends) I thank the Minister and the witnesses for appearing before the committee. I will rise and report progress. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The House will come back to order. We are on Item 20, report of committee of the whole. Mr. Ningark.

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you. Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 8, Appropriation Act, 1998-99 and, Mr. Speaker, I move that report of committee of the whole be concurred with. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Seconded by Mr. Miltenberger. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The 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, there is a meeting of the Ordinary Members' Caucus on Monday at 11:00 a.m.

Orders of the day for Monday, February 9, 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
 - Bill 10, Miscellaneous Statutes Amending Act, 1998
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 6, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act
 - 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

- 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
Monday, February 9th, at 1:30 p.m.

--ADJOURNMENT