



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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HANSARD

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The Honourable **Samuel Gargan**, Speaker

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

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

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

Thank you, Mr. Enuaraq. Good Morning.

Speaker's Ruling

Before we start with the orders of the day, I would like to provide you with a ruling on the point of order raised by Mr. Roland on February 16, 1998, regarding a Minister quoting from a Cabinet document and Mr. Roland's request to have a Cabinet document tabled in the House.

By way of background, Mr. Roland argued that because it appeared Mr. Kakfwi made reference to and allegedly quoted from a Cabinet document, the Premier should be prepared to table the entire Cabinet decision in the House.

In presenting his point of order, Mr. Roland quoted from Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules and Forms, sixth edition. He quoted citation 495(1), which reads:

"A Minister is not at liberty to read or quote from a dispatch or other state paper not before the House without being prepared to lay it on the Table."

First, I must indicate that I have reviewed the unedited Hansard which contains the comments made by Mr. Kakfwi on February 13, 1998, and cannot find a clear indication that Mr. Kakfwi was quoting from a Cabinet directive or a Cabinet record of decision. It would appear that his reference to a Cabinet Directive was, in fact, an excerpt from letters that had been sent to Sahtu leaders regarding the issue of Sahtu health

service delivery. Those letters have subsequently been tabled before this House as Tabled Document 48-13(5). I view this particular question to be a moot point, and perhaps a question of terminology. However, as Cabinet documents, including Cabinet directives and Cabinet records of decision, are papers which this House cannot order to be tabled. In other words, even if a Cabinet document is referred to, it need not be tabled. I refer Members to Beauchesne's citation 446(2)(1) for further clarification on the protections accorded to Cabinet documents.

In addition, I wish to address the point made by Mr. Roland whereby he suggested that gaining access to all Cabinet documents relating to the Cabinet's decision on this issue is the only means to allow him to effectively represent his constituents in this matter. Firstly, I must reiterate that Cabinet documents are exempt from mandatory production by way of an order of this House. Secondly, only the specific document cited need be tabled and this, in effect, has been done as the relevant letters have been tabled. As Beauchesne's citation 495(4) states:

"Only the document cited need be tabled by a Member. A complete file need not be tabled because one document is it has been cited."

For these reasons, I rule that Mr. Roland does not have a point of order. The Cabinet, through the Premier, cannot be compelled to table Cabinet documentation relating to this issue. Thank you

Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Morin.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 64-13(5): Minister Absent From the House

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise Members that the Honourable Stephen Kakfwi will be absent from the House this morning to meet with the Russian delegation in Yellowknife. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Ministers' statements. Mr. Antoine.

Minister's Statement 65-13(5): Mobile Inspection Vehicle

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Members of the Legislative Assembly, the Department of Transportation's Motor Vehicles Division, through its highway transport officers, is responsible for enforcing the regulatory environment for our trucking industry, including driver and vehicle licensing, mechanical safety standards, vehicle weights and dimensions, security of loads, hours of service, dangerous goods as well as the rules of the road in general. A permanent weigh scale and vehicle inspection station on Highway # 1 at Enterprise has been the division's focal point for most regulatory enforcement. However, truck traffic has been increasing steadily in areas far away from Enterprise, such as, logging operations near Fort Liard and Fort Simpson, mine re-supply on the Ingraham Trail and winter road operations north of Wrigley to the Sahtu communities.

While increased trucking activity is a welcome sign of positive economic growth for an area, the number of heavy trucks also raises the public's concerns for highway safety. The department has received requests from many quarters to

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extend its enforcement activities.

Especially when public money is tight, building new permanent weigh scale sites take a large commitment, of both capital and operating dollars, in fixed locations that may be no better situated to deal with future changes in truck traffic. As an alternative to fixed sites, the Department of Transportation is putting a new mobile inspection station in service this week. This self-contained vehicle, similar to ones in service in Ontario, Saskatchewan and Alberta, will be deployed in areas where truck traffic is heaviest. It is designed to operate year round and, if necessary, under severe weather conditions.

It is equipped with portable weigh scales that can weigh any size of vehicles. As well as the standard equipment used in a stationary inspection station, such as a fax, photocopier, computer and printer, it also has radio and satellite communications. With satellite technology, the highway transport officers can check licenses, verify safety certificates and issue permits just as they do in the permanent station at Enterprise.

The unit is built for two officers to operate around the clock at any location for days at a time. The mobile

inspection station will be an effective tool for detecting and deterring violations of transport regulations and for carrying out ongoing safety programs. By going where the trucks are, instead of waiting for them to stop by, the department can do a much better job of protecting the public's \$1 billion investment in our highway infrastructure. The motto on the vehicle, On the Move - Safely, speaks for the department's commitment to safety for both the trucking industry and the general public on our highways.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Transportation is pleased to invite the Members of the Assembly to take a look at its new mobile inspection station that is parked outside today in the Assembly's parking area. An open house and demonstration for the general public will be held tomorrow in the parking lot at the Yellowknife arena. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Ministers' statements. Before we go on with the Members' statements, I would like to recognize some people in the gallery, the Russian delegation and I would like to tell the delegation first, I apologize if I do not say your names correctly. Here are the names of the delegation: there is Minister Vladimir Kuramin, chairman of the Russian State Committee of Northern Development; Mr. Pavel Zaidfudim, first deputy chairman of the Russian State Committee of Northern Development; Mr. Serguei Kharioutchi, president of the Association of Indigenous Minorities of the Russian North; Harold Finkler, director, Circumpolar Liaison Directorate; Mr. Nikita Kirilov, the interpreter, and Mr. Jean Villeneuve, the DIAND official. Welcome to the Assembly.

--Applause.

MR. SPEAKER:

Did I do okay in pronouncing your names? Orders of the day. Item 3, members' statements. Mr. Picco.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement 268-13(5): Income Tax Filing Assistance

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have asked in this House on previous occasions about the annual problem with Revenue Canada and income tax filing.

Mr. Speaker, the income tax forms are hard enough to understand at the best of times and with fewer resources in our smaller communities many people have chosen not to file returns in the past. Mr. Speaker, I brought my concerns forward in this House to the Minister of Finance and I am pleased, Mr. Speaker, that our Finance Minister has had some success with Revenue Canada. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Todd recently wrote me to inform me that, indeed, Revenue Canada, after some prodding by this government, will be visiting fourteen NWT communities, including nine in Nunavut, to help with income tax returns. Mr. Speaker, for the first time, Revenue Canada will be holding a tax clinic in Iqaluit.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Miltenberger.

Member's Statement 269-13(5): Empowerment of Regional Health Boards

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak briefly about the issue of health boards in the NWT, specifically, the one in Fort Smith. The concern I have is based on some of the discussion I have heard in the House emanating from the Inuvik region. Mr. Speaker, the government has made a considerable effort in the last number of years to empower communities and health boards in regions to deliver health services and programs and make the appropriate decisions for the people they serve. In Fort Smith, we have had a very intense history with health boards and what happens when there is political involvement or interference at the territorial level and how that can affect the community. In Fort Smith's case, there was a review that was planned and they spent

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almost a \$1 million on. The community and health centre went through a tremendous time of trauma and stress. At the end of the day, the review was cancelled, but the situations and the questions raised went unresolved. Mr. Speaker, we are still paying for that price and for that process today, I want to make sure that, in fact, this government stays true to the course they have set out with health boards to ensure they, in fact, are the vehicle to work out and resolve health issues in their community and their region. Mr.

Speaker, in Fort Smith, the health board within the community worked out an arrangement to have a board that was representative of the community along with major groups and governments in the community, the band, the town and the Metis. We have made clear and significant steps in being able to administer those programs. While I do not want to interfere in the activities and business emanating from the Inuvik region, I want to make it very clear from the government and I would like reassurance that, they are going stay on course and that health boards will be allowed to carry out the duties they have been empowered to deliver. Hopefully we, as MLAs in this Assembly, will play a broad strategic role but not get involved politically in short circuiting the role and function of the boards. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Ootes.

Member's Statement 270-13(5): Aven Manor Accreditation Award

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my great pleasure today to extend congratulations to all those that are involved in Aven Manor. This long-term care facility, whose residents are my constituents, has become the first of its kind in the north to earn an unconditional three-year accreditation from the Canadian council on health care accreditation. Council inspectors looked at all areas of the Manor's operations, including resident care, support services, governance and leadership, and compared levels of care to national standards. I am pleased to say Aven Manor passed all the tests with flying colours. The Manor is a 29-bed care facility run by the Yellowknife Association of Concerned Citizens for Seniors. It is important to note that YACCS, its acronym, volunteered to take part in the accreditation process, in order to get an objective, outsider's opinion of the quality of services offered. Last Friday, their efforts were rewarded with the conference of the Canadian Council's highest award. Aven Manor was praised in the council's report for providing care that is, resident focused, with families and residents actively participating in care planning. The staff was described as responsive, committed to excellence, knowledgeable and dedicated. The board of directors and leadership was described as strong and effective. My praise, indeed, is for the Aven Centre's workers and its board. I am pleased that this important facility in Yellowknife has been recognized nationally as a model for long-term

nursing care. It is especially important given that, unlike the provinces, there is no regulatory or licencing required for operators of long-term care homes in the territories. It is gratifying to know that such quality and caring is available to our senior citizens here in Yellowknife. I commend the workers, managers and board of directors for the hard work that has resulted in this high honour. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement 271-13(5): Inuvik Regional Health Board

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on the issue of the Inuvik Regional Health Board. Mr. Speaker, it has been brought into light, in this forum as well as in the news, the concerns within the Inuvik region on what is happening. Mr. Speaker, I want to let Members know here, as well as in the public, that the Inuvik Regional Health Board is doing a good job. They provide quality health care. Mr. Speaker, it has been mentioned that Yellowknife has better services. I would like to remind Members that many of the specialists who operate out of Yellowknife travel to Inuvik to hold clinics and provide services for the people of the Inuvik region. Mr. Speaker, the Inuvik Regional Health Board has not been without controversy at times. We have undergone some major changes. At one point, there were 16 board members, which made it very difficult to do many things and get on with business. Since then, it has been changed where organizations such as the Inuvialuit, the Gwich'in, the Sahtu, the Towns of Inuvik and Norman Wells, have representation to represent their interests on the health board. From there, Mr. Speaker, we have come a long way in providing and making sure that services are provided in the Inuvik region are done so to the best of their ability. Mr. Speaker, when we had an opportunity to hear the concerns from the NWT Medical Association, it was pointed out, in a discussion I had with one of the representatives, that Inuvik Regional Health Board is an example of how health boards should be operated. I take that as good news and as a positive note that the Inuvik Regional Health Board has been operating under some difficult conditions. I am still

waiting for information that I had asked for on the funding levels they were given, in light of some of the restraints that were placed on them by previous Cabinets. I would like to say to the Members and to the public that, indeed, the Inuvik Regional Health Board, in my eyes, has been doing a good job in some difficult times. Not without controversy, but they have moved ahead and are providing service to the best of their ability. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Member's Statement 272-13(5): Role of Nunavut Caucus

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, given all that has been going on in these last two days, I would like to reflect on what has been going on in this House. Mr. Speaker, I have strong feelings about the role that Nunavut Caucus must play in this House, particularly given recent events.

First, I would like to thank my honourable colleague, Mr. Levi Barnabas, for his statement yesterday. It took a lot of courage and was the honourable thing to do.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is important that Nunavut Caucus

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Members stay out of political games, such as recent events and focus on the issues that concern the people we represent: the creation of Nunavut, the high cost of living, economic development and social issues, as well as what was mentioned by the Iqaluit Member with regard to income tax.

Let me repeat, these kinds of distractions lack credibility and take all of our energies away from issues that really matter. Mr. Speaker, I believe this does no service to the people we are here to serve and hurts the credibility of all Members of this House.

The people of the NWT want us to act like leaders. This means focusing on issues that count to the people, rising above the temptation to resort to dirty politics, acting with honesty and integrity and solving problems rather than creating them.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of how the Members of Nunavut Caucus have handled themselves these last few days. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Krutko.

Member's Statement 273-13(5): Ministerial Accountability

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand here today in regard to the role that we play. It is the 13th Assembly and the reason that most of us got into politics was to represent the people of the north and our constituents. I find it very appalling when I feel like I am from a separate party and a separate province. Mr. Speaker, there are times when we raise issues in this House in relation to issues that affect people in communities, social issues relating to alcohol and drug programs; issues relating to education programs; and also in regard to the economic conditions we find a lot of our regions in. Yet, we raise questions in this House time and time again, to feel that the government, who is the Cabinet, answers back with a conditional no, or basically, sorry, go and find the funding somewhere else. We do not have it in our budget. Yet, Mr. Speaker, we talk about having a unique way of government in the Northwest Territories where we do not have party politics. Sometimes I wonder which party is Cabinet on? Are they basically playing to their own agenda or are they looking at the interests of an institution versus an institution of people? Mr. Speaker, I talk about people with a face, a person, an individual and a person who you see on the street day to day, or an individual who calls us with a concern because they do not work, they are cut off from income support, they are having problems with their educational grants or there are concerns in relationship to issues we raised in this House. We stand up with a good question directed to a Minister and get a flat no as an answer. I believe we are here to represent all the people of the north to change the way this government operates and not go back into the system of being institutionalized where the Cabinet Ministers are solely responsible for their particular departments and not the people we represent. Thank you.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement 274-13(5): Legislative Assembly Pool Tournament Results

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell Members of a very sad thing that happened in Yellowknife. Last night in the After 8 pool hall where all Members of the Legislative Assembly, including yourself Mr. Speaker, were socializing by playing a pool tournament. Some Members were also playing darts. All Members were enjoying each others company. The reason it makes it very sad, Mr. Speaker, is this is the first time I have ever been beaten in this type of tournament.

--Laughter

Mr. Sharky Erasmus ended up winning the tournament, and I know we cannot ever say in this House that anybody cheats or anything, but he was a very good shot. He did manage to win on the last eight ball. I would like to thank all the Members for coming out last night and the staff. Myself, I came in second and Phil Bailey came in third. It hurt Phil more because he is a lot younger than myself and Roy and we both whipped him on the pool table. Thank you.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement 275-13(5): Treaty Rights Meeting

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, some of my constituents from the Nahendeh constituency attended a three-day meeting on the Hay River Reserve in the Deh Cho region last week from February 9 to 11, 1998. This was a three-day meeting on treaty rights, and there was discussion on the oral understanding of Treaty 8 and 11 from the elders and community leaders of the Akaitcho and Deh Cho territories. Mr. Speaker, they had a special guest, a special rapporteur from the United Nations,

Dr. Alfonso-Martinez was in attendance at this meeting. This doctor has been commissioned to have a final report prepared for the United Nations in July of this year. He is investigating the Indigenous Treaties from around the world and will be making recommendations to be implemented at the international level.

Mr. Speaker, this meeting was attended by a lot of people throughout the Deh Cho region, including the communities I represent. There were a number of representations that were made emphasizing the importance of the oral history and the understanding that Treaty 8 and 11 are peace and friendship arrangements rather than lands surrenders. People have expressed their concerns at this meeting and voiced dissatisfaction with violations against their treaties over the years. People have felt that there is a breach by the federal government obligations to the First Nations in the north. There is also a concern that Canada's policies and directions today continue to infringe on their treaty rights. I would like to quote from the Dene National Chief Bill Erasmus who was a presenter and emphasized, "the validity of Indigenous Treaties and that

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by International and British Common Law standards Canada is obligated to implement and uphold their part of the bargain," and "there was a meeting of the minds at Treaty making which cannot be ignored by Canada any longer." Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement 276-13(5): Support for Friendship Centres

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to welcome our visiting Russian delegation. I hope they find our city and country interesting and enjoyable.

Yesterday as you may recall, we had the privilege to meet with the NWT Council of Friendship Centres. The meeting proved to be very interesting and informative. In my community the friendship centre has been a focal point for the young and old for many years. It was not that long ago the centre was in a

very bad financial state and looked like it was on the verge of closing. However, due to the hard work of the board and their executive director, this friendship centre is now operating many services that are needed in the community and have been able to get the financial situation back in order.

Most of you have seen the friendship express driving the streets of Yellowknife over the past months. This is one example, the board saw a need for a regular scheduled bus service between Rae-Edzo and Yellowknife and were able to purchase a bus. They now operate this bus daily, picking up freight from various suppliers here in Yellowknife as well as transporting residents to and from Yellowknife.

The friendship centre movement across our great nation provides many very good programs and services for our native people. These centres are a safe place to go where you are always welcome with a smile and a hot cup of coffee. They make you feel at home and wanted. Mr. Speaker, the NWT Council of Friendship Centres needs our support and we should not hesitate in giving it to them. It is for the best for all our people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Barnabas.

Member's Statement 277-13(5): Birthday Greetings

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate one of the only elders here, Mr. Evaloarjuk's birthday. He was born on February 18, 1937. I would also like to celebrate the birthday of my colleague, Mr. David Akeegok.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Happy birthday, Mr. Evaloarjuk. Members' statements. Mr. Erasmus.

Member's Statement 278-13(5): Front Door Society

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, back when the Minister of Finance made his budget speech, I had made a statement and asked questions in regard to

the homeless in Yellowknife and other parts of the Northwest Territories and in answer to my questions, the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, indicated that he would be willing to work with a group or groups in order to help rectify the situation. As well the Minister of Housing had indicated that he would work with the other Ministers in the social envelope to try to address this situation. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to report today that there is such a group in Yellowknife working on this problem. They are called the Front Door Society. The Front Door Society, was formed about a year ago and their long-term mandate is to seriously look at the homeless on a larger scale. There are many unanswered questions that society needs to look at such as the impacts that division and decentralization will have. They are also doing a survey to determine the actual number of homeless people in Yellowknife and what services are already available to them. As well, to look at the availability of lands within the city, which ones would be best suited for a facility and what the costs will be. Obviously, it would be nice to if they could get a donation of land from the city or one of our senior governments.

The Front Door Society's goal is to provide a rooming house for hard to house people within the City of Yellowknife. Their challenge is to provide supportive housing that recognizes residents as individuals who value their independence and that facilitates and supports choice in people's lives while developing and supporting a community of residents. The society is in the process of getting a charitable organization status so they can provide tax exempt receipts when they receive donations. Mr. Speaker, the society has already had meetings with all interested parties, meaning those who provide services to people in need, particularly the Departments of Education, Culture and Employment and Health and Social Services as well as the City of Yellowknife and of course we have to bring in the citizens of Yellowknife. Mr. Speaker, doing it this way makes it truly a solution that comes from the community. The society's next step, Mr. Speaker, is to make a presentation to the Yellowknife City Council of February 23, 1998 at which time they will be discussing their proposal. Thank you.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have two returns to oral questions. The first one asked by Mrs. Groenewegen on January 21, 1998

Return To Oral Question 59-13(5): Organ Donor Identification

Further to your question posed to the honourable Minister Antoine, I am pleased to provide the following information.

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There is provision for organ donation through the Critical Care Unit at Stanton Regional Hospital in Yellowknife. An Alberta organization, the Human Organ and Procurement Exchange Society (HOPE) supplies the funding and personnel for organ retrieval procedures at Stanton. HOPE also organizes organ transplant services in Alberta and coordinates with similar organizations across Canada and the United States.

There have been requests to include an organ donor agreement on NWT drivers' licences. Instead, the Department of Health and Social Services is going to look at the possibility of including this information on health care cards. Health care cards are more widely held by NWT residents than drivers' licences. With the creation of two new territories, health care cards will be redesigned. The department is actively pursuing the idea of incorporating organ donation information on the new health care cards.

We should remember that signing a card does not guarantee organ donation. People should discuss their wishes with their families. It is important that families know their loved one wants to be an organ donor, as the next of kin always have final approval of any organ donation.

The second return to oral question Mr. Speaker, asked by Mr. Picco on February 3, 1998.

Return To Oral Question 182-13(5): Changes to Non-Insured Health Benefits

A comprehensive review, by the Medical Services Branch of Health Canada, of the non-insured health benefit (NIHB) drug benefit list has been ongoing. The purpose of the continuing review is to ensure that the drugs on the list meet current needs of NIHB clients and that they reflect current medical practices

as new information emerges about both the old and new drugs.

While coverage of some drugs will be limited or discontinued, a significant number of drugs continue to be added to the NIHB formulary on an ongoing basis.

The decision to add or delete any drug is made only after careful consideration. The particular needs of NIHB clients, the safety of the drug, the accumulated scientific research and the availability of better alternatives are all factors that are weighed in deciding which drugs remain listed. The revised drug benefit list will contain approximately 6,000 items which ensure that comprehensive drug coverage is available to all NIHB clients.

In cases where doctors want drugs that are not on the list for their NIHB clients, they are asked to complete an exception drug request form explaining why that particular drug is needed. Coverage will not be denied for any drug for which there is a legitimate medical need.

The updated drug benefit list was distributed to all NWT pharmacies, physicians and health centres in September, 1997. As well, letters were sent to chiefs, First Nations, Inuit associations, medical associations and regional health and social services boards.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Ootes.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 356-13(5): Departmental Computer Purchase

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last spring the Department of Health issued a request for proposals to purchase in excess of 300 computers and the final bid was for about \$1.2 million. My question is for the Minister of Health. Could the Minister of Health tell us if those computers have already been distributed to various communities throughout the north? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 356-13(5): Departmental Computer Purchase

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe I already informed the Member that they had been distributed. There was a question about where they were distributed. I committed to having that information available for committee of the whole, review of the budget and I do have that information but not with me right now. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 356-13(5): Departmental Computer Purchase

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Considering the tremendous difficulty that may be encountered in the year 2000, we are all familiar that all computers will need to be reconfigured at that point, could the Minister tell us if these computers have been appropriately configured to deal with the millennium problem? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 356-13(5): Departmental Computer Purchase

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is a government-wide problem. It is my understanding these computers purchased are year-2000 compatible. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 357-13(5): Health Board Empowerment

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services and it is regarding a follow up on my statement in the House from this morning. Could the Minister indicate whether there has been any change in how his

department tends to relate to and do business with health boards in communities and regions that would cause any concern or that should be noted by this House? Thank you.

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MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Ng.

Return To Question 357-13(5): Health Board Empowerment

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are no plans to change anything. The boards will continue to be the program service delivery agent in their service areas. We will continue to provide support to them as much as possible. In fact, to strengthen some of the support mechanisms, we have to provide as much assistance as possible to the boards. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 357-13(5): Health Board Empowerment

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will it also continue to be the approach by the government, the Minister and his department to encourage communities and health boards and their political leaders to resolve issues within the region and community in which they occur? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 357-13(5): Health Board Empowerment

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, most definitely. It is the whole intent of the establishment of boards that they would be more accountable and responsible to the people they have served through direct representation of people that are within their service areas, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 357-13(5): Health Board Empowerment

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In Fort Smith we had an experience as I referenced in my Member's statement where there was great political effort at this level made to institute a thorough full-scale investigation into the Fort Smith Health Centre, which cost about \$1 million and a tremendous amount of stress which ended up being cancelled the day before it started. I would just like to get some assurance from the Minister as well that type of activity will not take place, again at least without full consultation, with community leadership and the boards in question? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 357-13(5): Health Board Empowerment

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can give that assurance, certainly. It is a very dramatic step to get into that type of an enquiry type of situation and as you know, there would have to be serious circumstances to warrant having that happen, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Roland.

Question 358-13(5): Medical Services for Sahtu Region

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question will be directed to the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services. It follows my Member's statement on the Inuvik Regional Health Board or the proper terminology would be the Inuvik Regional Health and Social Services Board. Mr. Speaker, in light of the concerns that have been brought forward with the decision that the board has made, I would like to ask the Minister, can you explain the background of this particular issue of medical services

for the Sahtu residents and that reflects on the whole issue of the board in its decision to affect how medical services are accessed? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 358-13(5): Medical Services for Sahtu Region

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, it is good to be back. People must have missed me the last couple of days. In respect to the Sahtu health care services, the last Minister of Health and Social Services chose to bring to Cabinet a decision paper that outlined where the Sahtu communities went for their health services. Specifically, it was decided at that time, Fort Good Hope and Colville Lake residents had the choice of going to Inuvik or Yellowknife for their services. People in Norman Wells, Deline and Tulita were asked to be referred to Yellowknife for their services. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 358-13(5): Medical Services for Sahtu Region

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In reference to the concern that a Cabinet decision was made and is still in effect, if this guideline or policy is in effect and guides Ministers in the way decisions are made, does this Cabinet still, and the Minister as well, have to follow past direction of past Cabinet decisions? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 358-13(5): Medical Services for Sahtu Region

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, generally Cabinet or Ministers will adopt or operate on the basis of former Cabinet decisions. Ultimately, each Minister has responsibility under specific statutory instruments,

legislation, outlining their authority. I use for example, my case as Minister of Health and Social Services under the Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Act, I have the authority to establish boards of management. I have the authority to delegate to them the authority to control health facilities, health programs and

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services within that area which is scooped out, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 358-13(5): Medical Services for Sahtu Region

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If, yourself, as the Minister of Health and Social Services has statutory powers under the Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Act, do you have to go to Cabinet to make decisions that affect the NWT residents, for example, the Sahtu situation?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 358-13(5): Medical Services for Sahtu Region

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in a circumstance like this, I can be guided by a Cabinet decision, but I do not have to go to Cabinet because of authority that is invested in me under the statutory instrument. I can, of course, have the option of going to Cabinet to seek the overturn of a former decision if I deem that would be necessary or if I wanted to get some Cabinet direction or guidance on it, but ultimately, no. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 358-13(5): Medical Services for Sahtu Region

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If, you, as the Minister of Health, are not bound to follow a current or former Cabinet decision, what happens in a situation where a Cabinet decision is in conflict with your decision as legally afforded by you. For example, again, the Sahtu situation has been expressed in this Assembly?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 358-13(5): Medical Services for Sahtu Region

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would have a couple of options. As I indicated, I could put forward a new decision paper to Cabinet to reverse the former Cabinet decision or I could exercise my authority as I indicated under the legislation and basically, not consult with Cabinet in implementing or supporting any changes that may have been inconsistent with former Cabinet decisions. Mr. Speaker, by doing so, I would be exercising my authority by implying to amend or repeal the former decision. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 359-13(5): Financial Aid to Hepatitis "C" Individuals

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to follow my colleagues and ask the questions to the Minister of Health. Mr. Speaker, the Minister just returned from a meeting with his provincial, territorial and federal counterparts on health. My concern today Mr. Speaker is, why was it decided not to help, financially, the Hepatitis C sufferers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 359-13(5): Financial Aid to Hepatitis "C" Individuals

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is a serious, complex issue. There was a decision actually by provincial, territorial and federal health

Ministers to work toward providing a financial assistance package to Hepatitis C affected individuals. The issue, quite frankly, I have to be careful because there is some sensitivity in negotiations going on between the federal government and my provincial and territorial colleagues in respect to who is going to contribute what toward this program and what are some of the perimeters of the program that may be offered, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 359-13(5): Financial Aid to Hepatitis "C" Individuals

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, during these negotiations and meetings, what is the position of the Northwest Territories government on this issue? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 359-13(5): Financial Aid to Hepatitis "C" Individuals

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is consistent with all other jurisdictions as I indicated, across the country and including the federal government. We want to try to work toward putting together a financial assistance package. There are negotiations ongoing in trying to rectify that and reach a suitable solution, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 359-13(5): Financial Aid to Hepatitis "C" Individuals

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is a concern. It is a national story. The Minister was at the meetings, so it is quite informative to be able to get first-hand information from him. I want to follow up on

my earlier two questions in this area. Could the Minister tell us how many people, indeed, in the Northwest Territories would fall under the Hepatitis C package, that hopefully, is underway in negotiations?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

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Further Return To Question 359-13(5): Financial Aid to Hepatitis "C" Individuals

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our jurisdiction has had very limited exposure in respect to actual individuals who may be impacted as a result of this. I do not have the specific numbers but it is very small. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 359-13(5): Financial Aid to Hepatitis "C" Individuals

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, over the last couple of days of following on the heels of that meeting, several of the Minister's provincial and territorial counterparts have made statements concerning this issue. Would the Minister be making a statement or any type of declaration on this position, on the Hepatitis C, from the Government of the NWT?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 359-13(5): Financial Aid to Hepatitis "C" Individuals

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will not be making a specific one. There is one done jointly by federal/provincial/territorial Ministers. There was a communique outlined over the last two days, but there was one Monday evening for the provincial/territorial Ministers and there was one yesterday from the federal/provincial/territorial Ministers which outlines our positions. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 360-13(5): Clarification of Pay Equity Issue

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for the Financial Management Board, Mr. Todd. It is in regard to the pay equity issue and the statement of facts that were advertised in the newspaper under a GNWT banner. I am looking for some clarity, Mr. Speaker, on a statement made where the Minister talks about the \$9 million portion of the budget to implement the new Hay Job Evaluation System. Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister is, will the \$9 million be paid out as part of the ongoing resolution of this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 360-13(5): Clarification of Pay Equity Issue

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In fact, I would like to take a couple of minutes to explain, and I think it is important, because it gives everybody clarity about what the offer we put on the table was. There was a \$25 million retroactivity offer that is the money that is owed to people from the past. It was calculated based on the Hay and Associates Group that it would be an ongoing cost for our principle service of \$9 million. Unless we come to some agreement on the job evaluations, this \$9 million would, in fact, not be spent. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 361-13(5): Federal Funding for Hospitals

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, following up on the meetings that were held with the Minister of Health in Ottawa, we were hoping to have some clarity on the issue of federal funding and financing for the two major hospital projects which the federal

government has a commitment on the table to help us out with. Could the Minister update us at this time about his meetings with his federal counterpart as to what is happening with this situation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 361-13(5): Federal Funding for Hospitals

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at the meeting in Toronto that I just returned from, the two main agenda items were the hepatitis C potential financial assistance package and the establishment of a Canadian blood service to take over the responsibilities from the Canadian Red Cross Society. Those were the two major national issues that we had to deal with. I did not have a chance and I would not, quite frankly, bring it up with the federal Minister, the outstanding issue of the Inuvik and Iqaluit hospital financing agreements because there is still work being done at an official level on it. I have indicated in the past and it is coming close to a resolution. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 361-13(5): Federal Funding for Hospitals

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have never had an opportunity to attend one of these ministerial conferences, but I have been at other meetings and I do know that there is a lot of networking that goes on between colleagues. I did understand from the Minister in questioning in this House and with the Hansard review, I think I will be proven correct but he did say he would be talking to his federal counterpart but he did not specifically say at that meeting. Following up on that, Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Minister that indeed, when you are looking at \$50 or \$60 or \$70 million coming from the federal government, it would be a major priority of this government and you would hope they would have some discussion on it. When does the Minister finally think we are going to have some closure on how

much money is actually going to come from the federal government on the commitment for the two facilities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

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Further Return To Question 361-13(5): Federal Funding for Hospitals

HON. KELVIN NG:

Mr. Speaker, first of all, it is not \$60 or \$70 million the honourable Member refers to. There is, as I indicated, discussions ongoing with our officials right now and it is coming close to resolution. There is no point, Mr. Speaker, in myself as a Minister speaking to the federal Health Minister unless we cannot resolve this issue at a bureaucratic level. I do not see the need, as I indicated, unless there is a breakdown in negotiations and an impasse which has to be settled politically. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 361-13(5): Federal Funding for Hospitals

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again, for clarity purposes, I have a lot of concern in my riding concerning this project and people keep continuing to ask me what the amount and dollar values are. The Minister just said it was not \$60 or \$70 million, so what is the value? Someone must have an idea. Give us an approximate value of what is being discussed during these ongoing negotiations since 1988 when this agreement was first signed. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 361-13(5): Federal Funding for Hospitals

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I cannot, as I indicated, there are negotiations between federal officials and GNWT officials right now on finalizing the

amounts, some of the structure around the timing of the payment and what financing agreement can be put in place to deal with this issue. I am not at liberty now to throw out, at this date, what figures they are discussing because it is still under negotiation. It is coming close to resolution. I would be glad to update the Member and this House once it is resolved. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 361-13(5): Federal Funding for Hospitals

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am not trying to debate the Minister. I am just trying to follow on the questions. We have been asking these questions for two years, and we always keep hearing the same thing, negotiations, negotiations, negotiations. The agreement, like I said before, was signed in 1988. My final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, is when would the negotiations be finalized and when does the Minister expect to be able to tell this House and this Member, when these dollar values and the completion of these negotiations will be able to come forward in this House and let the people know? That is a legitimate question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. I will rule the question out of order. The question has already been repeated and has been answered.

--Applause

Oral questions. Mr. Roland.

Question 362-13(5): Financing Two New Governments

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question at this time will be directed to the Honourable John Todd. Mr. Speaker, there has been some concern in the public eyes and business sector of the economy after division and concern with what kind of funding we will have in the west. Knowing that there are ongoing discussions in formula financing, could the Minister inform this House as to the process and at what time

we might see some conclusion to this matter. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 362-13(5): Financing Two New Governments

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, I think I have tried on numerous occasions to reassure people across the territories, that as Finance Minister, I was reasonably confident that we are going to get the levels of funding we would require to deliver the current levels of service. The executive director of the NWT Construction Association was on the radio this morning indicating this fear about the lack of funding, et cetera. I simply do not know where that kind of nonsensical rhetoric comes from. The reality is, we are in sensitive negotiations with respect to formula financing. I have tried to assure this House and everybody else that we are fairly confident it is going reasonably well. I have full confidence we are going to get adequate levels of funding east and west, based upon the status quo in the west that we all agreed to and based upon Footprints in the Snow in the east. At the officials level, there is a meeting being held either this week or next week in Rankin Inlet. I appreciate the fact they want my home riding and I thank them for that. We are close, as they say in the round numbers, achieving the goal that all parties can sign on to and, hopefully, be able to make a statement in April or May to reassure the east and west that adequate funding will be there. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 362-13(5): Financing Two New Governments

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A number of parties have been involved in the discussions, the western coalition being one of them. We are aware of the process but, for the sake of clarity, can the Minister inform us that, in fact, we are dealing with two gross expenditures' bases and not the splitting of one.

Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 362-13(5): Financing Two New Governments

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HON. JOHN TODD:

If everybody will remember, it was at my insistence as the Finance Minister, that we do not do exactly that, split the existing budget, that we cost two new governments. The federal Finance Minister, the Honourable Paul Martin, agreed to that and I thank him for that. That is the process we have underway. We are very close to making an arrangement that all parties will be able to sign on to. I want to remind the people of the territories out there and those advocacy groups who are listening, especially the ones who occasionally do not appear to be, all parties are at the table, the western coalition, the GNWT, the Interim Commissioner and our colleagues at the federal level, the federal government. All parties will have to sign off on the two new formulas. I am confident that all parties are representing our interests to the best of their ability and we will have adequate funding for two new territories as I outlined in my previous answer to my honourable colleague's questions. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 363-13(5): Assisting Local Service Providers

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services. Over the years, many local organizations across the territories have provided a range of services that the government has been unable to provide. This has become a very important part of the service delivery in the north. In Fort Smith, Uncle Gabe's Friendship Centre is one of those organizations. As government dollars have decreased, groups involved have had to be more creative in the ways they do business to be able to ensure that they, in fact, deliver programs. My question to the Minister is, what steps are the department and boards taking to work with local service providers to ensure this good work continues. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 363-13(5): Assisting Local Service Providers

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would believe that the department and boards would continue to have ongoing dialogue enhancing their working relationship with those non-profit organizations as we do recognize how important they are in our health and social services system throughout the territories, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 363-13(5): Assisting Local Service Providers

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister indicate whether the funding for the programs that these local service providers operate from is located either with the department or with the boards themselves at this point? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 363-13(5): Assisting Local Service Providers

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, consistent with all our other programs and services, and giving board empowerment and autonomy, we have given all the boards the funding for the programs, including the contributions for these types of nonprofit agencies and organizations, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 363-13(5): Assisting Local Service Providers

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In order to be consistent with the theme of partnership, which has to be there between boards and the department, would the Minister commit to continuing to ensure that boards work closely with community service providers to ensure there is a high level of service in the communities and with the residents they serve?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 363-13(5): Assisting Local Service Providers

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, I can commit to that. I am sure the boards recognize the importance of these agencies as well and will continue to work in a spirit of cooperation with them. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. We seem to be limited on the questions we can direct to the Ministers. We will take a ten-minute break.

--Break

MR. SPEAKER:

We are on question period. We have 13 more minutes. Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 364-13(5): Block Funding for Tsiigehtchic

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of the Housing Corporation, Mr. Arlooktoo. It is in regard to a letter he received from the Tsiigehtchic community about a block funding arrangement for the community where the Tsiigehtchic Housing Authority and the charter community have amalgamated into one. What they are asking for is, is there a possibility of receiving capital block funding from the Minister of the Housing Corporation for the community? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 364-13(5): Block Funding for Tsiigehtchic

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The letter has been received by my office. I have forwarded it to the

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Housing Corporation for review and we are looking at the possibility of doing an arrangement through the community empowerment initiative to transfer as many programs as possible, similar to those we have done in other communities. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 364-13(5): Block Funding for Tsiigehtchic

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister tell me exactly how long it is going to take before he gets back to the community on this particular matter?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 364-13(5): Block Funding for Tsiigehtchic

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Housing Corporation has had the letter for a few days now. I would hope within the next week that we should be able to respond to the community and the MLA at that time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 364-13(5): Block Funding for Tsiigehtchic

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister give me an idea of how long this process is going to take for

them to receive block funding in regard to this community empowerment initiative?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 364-13(5): Block Funding for Tsiigehtchic

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I cannot say for sure whether there will be a block funding arrangement with the community. What we are doing is looking at what we can transfer to the community as we have done with other communities. We encourage other communities to pursue this. I have instructed the Housing Corporation to take these requests positively and to do them in a timely manner. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 364-13(5): Block Funding for Tsiigehtchic

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister made a reference they have done this before. What is the turnaround time for capital funding arrangements with communities who formulate these community empowerment initiatives? What are we talking about, weeks, months, years? How long does it usually take for such an initiative to be handled?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 364-13(5): Block Funding for Tsiigehtchic

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The community of Tsiigehtchic already has some housing program responsibility, which we transferred to the community on August 1, 1997. In the past two years we have been successful in transferring programs to roughly half of the communities in the Northwest Territories and, hopefully, in the next year, do several other transfers in other communities. Whatever

arrangement we can make, I would like to have it finalized before springtime. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 365-13(5): Salaries and Benefits of Health Board Employees

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Health. Mr. Speaker, my question concerns health boards. Do health boards have the ability to offer salaries and benefits exclusive of the UNW Collective Agreement? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 365-13(5): Salaries and Benefits of Health Board Employees

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This might be better answered by the Chairperson of the Financial Management Board. They follow the guidelines of all the GNWT as part of the bargaining unit. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 365-13(5): Salaries and Benefits of Health Board Employees

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that is my understanding also. I have heard, Mr. Speaker, indeed, some health boards have given benefits such as travel benefits and increased salary packages to nurses in certain locations to get them to stay there. Could the Minister confirm this is taking place? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 365-13(5): Salaries and Benefits of Health Board Employees

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to my knowledge, it is not taking place, but obviously, if the Member has some information that I do not have and is willing to provide it to me, I can check into the particular circumstances. I can say that in some circumstances, Mr. Speaker, boards operate under contract with nursing placement agencies that provide health care professionals. They negotiate different rates with those contract agencies, Mr. Speaker, and

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they have the right to do that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 365-13(5): Salaries and Benefits of Health Board Employees

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, they have the right to negotiate, but they cannot negotiate above and beyond the current collective agreement. All the nurses are under the collective agreement and they are paid an amount which is spelled out under the collective agreement. A nurse in Grise Fiord would get the same amount based on her terms, tenure and experience that a similar nurse would get in Rankin Inlet as an example. Is the Minister then saying that, indeed, we do have medical professionals who are getting benefits or salaries greater than what is spelled out in the collective agreement? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 365-13(5): Salaries and Benefits of Health Board Employees

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, no, not that I am aware of in respect to nurses who are employees by boards. What I have said is, in some circumstances, boards go to contract agencies to provide services. They negotiate what the charge will be for those nurses they provide. I do not know what benefit packages the nurses within those employment agencies receive because of the fact they do not work for the board and they do not work

for us. It is between the employers and the nurses who operate there. Thank you.

HON. KELVIN NG:

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

Supplementary To Question 365-13(5): Salaries and Benefits of Health Board Employees

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, maybe we should clarify this. Is the Minister then saying, outside agencies place staff at our nursing stations or medical facilities? When this staff is working with staff who has made a commitment to the north, as an example, working for our government, two people would be working side-to-side and because the boards have decided to use an outside agency, nurse number one would be paid according to the GNWT's standard and nurse number two, would be paid because of some negotiation of an outside agency? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Further Return To Question 365-13(5): Salaries and Benefits of Health Board Employees

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that possibility certainly exists and it does happen. It is not an ideal situation, but because of the fact there is a recruitment and retention problem of our nursing profession, they have to fill in the vacancies and the boards sometimes choose to do that on a short-term basis with these nursing agencies, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 366-13(5): Children in Care not Attending School

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Health and Social Services, the Honourable Kelvin Ng. Mr. Speaker, there are a number of children within the care of the department, whether they are in facilities owned by the department or foster homes. It has been brought to my attention that some of these children are not attending school.

What is the policy of the department to ensure these children do, in fact, attend school? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 366-13(5): Children in Care not Attending School

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, obviously, there would be a requirement for children under our care, wards of the state, to attend school unless there are specific reasons why they would not be able to do that. The honourable Member raised this issue with me late last week and I have asked Yellowknife Social Services to try to provide a report if that is the situation or not. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 366-13(5): Children in Care not Attending School

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister and if he would at that time have the department look into the Education Act, under the academic year and school attendance regulations. It does state the school boards are responsible for putting procedures in place to ensure children do attend school. What I would like the Minister to have his department look at and assure that there are no holes between what the school boards are required to do and what the department's regulations are. If the Minister could commit to doing that, I would appreciate it, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 366-13(5): Children in Care not Attending School

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have no problem with doing that, but I would like to say, if they are under our care, we have a responsibility as a

department and as a government to ensure those children do go to school. If it is not happening, then certainly, it is a serious situation and we will deal with it right away. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 367-13(5): Mortgage Life Insurance for Clients

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Housing. It is in regard to the issue

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of mortgage insurance. With the move of the Housing Corporation to encourage people, especially in the west, to take on mortgages through the Down Payment Assistance Program, one of the issues that has come up is that if there is an unfortunate death of the major wage earner, right now, there apparently is no mortgage insurance and the spouse, even though she may have a limited income, is required to shoulder the burden. In a private market, there is mortgage insurance which would see the mortgage paid for through this insurance program. This issue was raised in the committee. I was wondering if the Minister could indicate whether any progress has been made in terms of the Housing Corporation being able to put in place some sort of mortgage insurance for their clients. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 367-13(5): Mortgage Life Insurance for Clients

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member raises an important issue. One that I am also concerned about. I would like to be able to bring as much detailed information as possible, therefore, I will take the question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER:

Question taken as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Ootes.

Question 368-13(5): Yellowknife Office Space Plan

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, in the committee of the whole, Mr. Lovely, deputy minister of Public Works made reference to the Yellowknife office space plan. Can Mr. Arlooktoo, as the former Minister, answer a question for me in that regard? The deputy minister stated the options' plan for the Yellowknife office space was signed on July 31st. Can the Minister confirm that with me? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Member for Yellowknife Centre cannot ask a question about a decision made by a former Minister. He can only direct it to Mr. Antoine, the current Minister of Public Works and Services. Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 368-13(5): Yellowknife Office Space Plan

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I understand the draft document the honourable Member was making reference to, was signed by the Minister of the day on July 31st. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 368-13(5): Yellowknife Office Space Plan

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Therefore, if the Minister signed the Yellowknife office space plan, he was familiar with all the ins and outs of what the government was planning to do with its office space in Yellowknife? Is that correct, Mr. Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 368-13(5): Yellowknife Office Space Plan

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the office plan that was originally signed at the end of July outlined,

in general terms, the different options that were laid out by the work that the deputy ministers put out. There is information on how we would approach looking at rationalizing the office space in Yellowknife. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 368-13(5): Yellowknife Office Space Plan

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister tell us, did that office space plan change after that date or was that adhered to from there on? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 368-13(5): Yellowknife Office Space Plan

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you. The Yellowknife office plan in its earlier planning stage had a number of options. As a result of the original signed document on July 31st, and then a couple of weeks later, in August the Cabinet then looked at this document at the FMB Cabinet meeting and decided to go with one of the options. Since that time, since the option was chosen, there was further work done on it and there were some changes from that first document until it was approved last month in January 1998, so there were some changes. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 368-13(5): Yellowknife Office Space Plan

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If there were options on there, did it also contain information with respect to potential imminent changes that could take place on that options paper?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 368-13(5): Yellowknife Office Space Plan

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you. My recollection, Mr. Speaker, on this document, it was a general document that looked at how this government will look at the office space requirements. It was a flexible, free-flowing document. As we made the decision to go with one of the options, and as more work went into it, there was enough flexibility in there that there were changes. It

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was not a very set, concrete plan saying that this is exactly what we are going to do. It was free-flowing. Yes, there were changes. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Steen.

Question 369-13(5): Resurfacing Nunakput Runways

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to Mr. Antoine, Minister of Transportation. Mr. Speaker, I would like to know if the department has any plans to resurface the runways of Sachs Harbour or Holman Island this year? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Transportation, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 369-13(5): Resurfacing Nunakput Runways

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have to look that up and get back to the Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 369-13(5): Resurfacing Nunakput Runways

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I note in this year's budget there is no capital money for resurfacing of those two runways, Sachs Harbour or Holman Island. Is there a plan in place to do the jobs or would this be under operations and maintenance funding instead?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 369-13(5): Resurfacing Nunakput Runways

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the information I received is only for Sachs Harbour on the capital side and is that we are going to be doing some more work on rehabbing the air terminal building. On the airport side, I have to look into whether we are going to be rehabbing the air strip. I know we had some problems last year on the air strip - rehabilitation of Sachs Harbour - on account of access to gravel problems that we had there. I have to check into it with the department to see how we will be dealing with it again this summer. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 369-13(5): Resurfacing Nunakput Runways

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for that information. I would appreciate further information that he would have on projects and also inform the communities. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 369-13(5): Resurfacing Nunakput Runways

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will do that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Roland.

Question 370-13(5): Highway Construction Strategy

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question at this time would be directed to the Minister responsible for Transportation, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Speaker, I have raised before in this Assembly the concern for employment long-term strategy and the road to resources. Mr. Speaker, recently I received information from Minister Antoine, in response to a letter, saying that because of the cost of the exercise, the lack of the possibilities of lowering prices and the Inuvik region is already hooked up by the Dempster Highway, that it was not looked at favourably. Not to look at a project overall as has been done in the past, I raise the concern as an employment strategy which would result in benefits the whole region. Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister is, knowing that we cannot afford to look at these projects, for example I think it was \$700 million for the Mackenzie Valley highway, I would like to ask the Minister if he would once again look at the possibilities of funding, to a certain degree, the access of preparing a right-of-way for a road for future and ongoing. If it is ten or 20 years, we need to start doing something to put people to work and create the infrastructure and the roads that we can access resources by. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Transportation, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 370-13(5): Highway Construction Strategy

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if this department had the funding, we would do a lot more than we are. Currently, we have an existing winter road system north of Wrigley into the Sahtu area through Tulita and Norman Wells up to Fort Good Hope. We try to open it every year and this year we just opened the connection about 10 days ago. We finally opened up the winter road into the Sahtu area. We are scheduled to shut it down March 17th. It is a very short window. In going to Tulita last weekend, the discussion was, why can we not do more work on the right-of-way that is already in existence? We do. Every year this department has some funds to give \$700,000 a year to the winter road improvements. That is just doing a little more to improve what we already have. That is stretching it quite a ways. The intention here, with the limited funding we have, is just

to improve it. They improve some of the crossings and stream crossings along the winter road system. It is not going along as fast as everybody wanted it too, but that is the best we could do at the present time. Connecting the winter road from Fort Good Hope to the Inuvik area is a task I have asked the department to look at. With the information that I received from the department, with the limited amount of money that we have, it is impossible to do at this point. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Supplementary,

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Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 370-13(5): Highway Construction Strategy

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the concern for a long-term strategy and reducing the requirement for capital dollars or initial dollars, I believe is still there and should be looked at. My concern and question to the Minister are in regard to the community access road money that is available. Could that money not be made available to communities, along the way, to begin work on a yearly or summer basis to start working on that right away and probably put some initial gravel down or something? I am sure all communities along the right-of-way would be interested in such a proposal. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 370-13(5): Highway Construction Strategy

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you. The community access road is one other program, other than the winter road improvement we have that could be used toward that end. There are a number of requests by other communities along the Mackenzie Valley system to start doing that. I believe in the Fort Good Hope area, they are utilizing the Access Road Program that eventually will be in the same vicinity as the Mackenzie Valley Highway. That is a good idea that the honourable Member has. If we

could just encourage communities to get involved. These access road programs, Mr. Speaker, are an initiative by the communities. Whatever proposal the community has and if it is acceptable to the department and is approved in this Legislative Assembly, that is how the appropriation is done. I will relay the honourable Member's points here to the department to have them look at the proposals that come forward from the communities along the Mackenzie Valley to see if that could be incorporated. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 370-13(5): Highway Construction Strategy

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think that would be definitely good news with the communities accessing that. Would the Minister and his department look at, for example, the Fort Good Hope to the Inuvik section. If that community access funding can be used for clearing the right-of-way where traffic is going through, by private individuals. Can that be one of the areas that can be accessed for that? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 370-13(5): Highway Construction Strategy

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we will be prepared to look at the suggestion the honourable Member has in light of trying to utilize the limited existing knowledge that we have in this department towards that end. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 371-13(5): Organ Donor Identification

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Health and Social Services, the Honourable Kelvin Ng. It is in regard to the return to oral questions today by the Minister on the question of organ donor identification. I congratulate the department and encourage them on the position they are taking. It is good that they look at the health care cards as opposed to driver's licences because more members of the Northwest Territories community can use that. My question to the Minister is, in deciding to look at health care cards, did they do any checking with other jurisdictions that may be using health care cards for organ donor identification? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 371-13(5): Organ Donor Identification

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not know which other jurisdictions they looked at. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 371-13(5): Organ Donor Identification

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister get back to me as to whether the department looked at other jurisdictions when they came up with this idea? Most other jurisdictions use driver's licences for identification. Maybe the Minister could also investigate whether it is going to cause some confusion if a lot of other jurisdictions in Canada are using a driver's licence? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 371-13(5): Organ Donor Identification

HON. KELVIN NG:

I would be happy to provide the information of what other jurisdictions we took a look at and on the issue

of driver's licences, as well, I would be willing to report back on that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Mr. Speaker, I will have to defer my question as there is nobody to ask it to. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 372-13(5): Terms of Nursing Contracts

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, following up on my earlier questions concerning health boards and these

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agencies. We have ascertained in questioning this House, they are hiring nurses. The Minister came back and said they are being hired, but it seems to be for the short-term or temporary. Could the Minister explain what is meant by short-term or temporary? Is that a year of employment? Two years, six months, three months? What is happening here? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 372-13(5): Terms of Nursing Contracts

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it would be short-term. I do not know. I believe it would be less than a year. I do not have the specifics, but I will certainly find out and advise the Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 372-13(5): Terms of Nursing Contracts

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on this issue, I am quite concerned because again, through questioning in the House today we have ascertained you have situations and this is what I have heard and the Minister had confirmed for me now that you have nurses, and there could be other professions, but nurses are the one that I have heard about. We have one nurse who has been working for a health centre for five or six years, dedicated herself to a community and the board brings in another nurse with the same qualifications and pays them more money. This is a major concern. Mr. Speaker, how prevalent is this within the Northwest Territories government? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The question has already been answered. I will rule your supplementary out of order. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 372-13(5): Terms of Nursing Contracts

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, does the Minister know how many boards in the Northwest Territories are using employment agencies? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 372-13(5): Terms of Nursing Contracts

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, all boards at various times of the year use these agencies. They are not hiring agencies, they are nursing agencies. They pay the nursing agency. The agency itself pays the nurses who work for it, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 372-13(5): Terms of Nursing Contracts

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my final question to the Minister in this area is, it looks like we have two different classifications of employees which is not correct. This, I understand, is causing morale problems within the health boards at the staffing level. Mr. Speaker, is there any contravention of the collective agreement, by doing this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 372-13(5): Terms of Nursing Contracts

HON. KELVIN NG:

Mr. Speaker, once again, trying to clarify for the Member. The nurses who work for the contract nursing agencies are not employees of the board. The board makes an arrangement with the company which hires the nurses. They provide services to the boards. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Question period is over. We will break now until 1:00 p.m.

--Break

MR. SPEAKER:

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.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Tabled Document 50-13(5): Department of Municipal and Community Affairs: Report of the Auditor General of Canada, February, 1998

MR. SPEAKER:

I would like to table the report of the Auditor General of Canada on his study of Municipal and Community Affairs pertaining to municipal financing as requested by the Legislative Assembly. The report is dated February, 1998.

Tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Todd.

ITEM 15: NOTICES OF MOTIONS FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

Bill 13: Forgiveness of Debts Act, 1997-98

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker. I give notice on Friday, February 20, 1998, I will move that Bill 13, Forgiveness of Debts Act, 1997-98, be read for the first time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. Bill 6, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act; Bill 8, Appropriation Act, 1998-99; Bill 11, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1997-98; Committee Report 02-13(5); Committee Report 03-13(5); Committee

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Report 04-13(5); Committee Report 05-13(5); Tabled Document 15-13(5) and Tabled Document 19-13(5). With Mr. Ningark in the Chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I would like to call the committee to order. We have a number of items to be considered by the committee of the whole. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, that we proceed with Bill 8 and Committee Report 02-13(5), Committee Report 03-13(5) and Committee Report 05-13(5) and that we start with the Department of Justice, followed by the NWT Housing Corporation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Ootes is recommending that we deal with Bill 8 and Committee Report 02-13(5), Committee Report 03-13(5) and Committee Report

05-13(5), Justice followed by the NWT Housing Corporation. Do we agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. At this time, I would like to ask the Minister of Justice, Mr. Arlooktoo, to present his opening remarks.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The department has put these broad goals and priorities into action by ensuring that resources are reaching communities in the form of community justice committee contributions, legal aid clinic contributions and community service funding to health boards. The funding of outpost camps and the training of community by-law officers to become community constables helps to ensure that the administration of justice is more compatible with community values and traditions.

The department continues to be faced with the reality of chronic overcrowding in our correctional facilities. The expansion and maintenance of these facilities has not kept pace with the growing numbers of offenders who pass through the system, let alone, provide sufficient programs and treatment that would assist in healing offenders and enable a successful re-integration into their communities. The pressures I mention are largely due to demographics but is also due to the changing profile of inmates who increasingly are becoming more difficult to manage. These factors also impact the resource requirements of the RCMP, the legal services board and the court system. All of these traditional areas of justice delivery have reached capacity limits, while at the same time, being forced to deal with budget reductions and restraint initiatives. However, despite fiscal restraint, the department has limited the overcrowding of institutions by providing funding for programs that enable offenders to be placed in outpost camps or in community supervision instead of in a facility. Although this does not fully address the overcrowding issue, it is an example of how the department is finding innovative solutions. The department will continue to seek solutions to this growing problem.

Therefore, due to the pressures outlined above, the 1998-99 main estimates for the Department of Justice do not identify any major resource shift between program areas of the department and no reductions are proposed from the previous year's main estimates.

The recent review of the coroner's office resulted in a recommendation to contract out the position of the chief coroner as well, increase the local coroner's fees from \$50 to \$150 per case. I am pleased to inform Members that Mr. Percy Kinney, has been hired as the new chief coroner. Mr. Chairman, I would also like to inform Members that coroner's fees have been increased as recommended.

--Applause

This increase is very much deserved and is in recognition of the very difficult and important work that coroners do. Members will note minor changes to the department's 1998-99 resource base due to the government's initiatives in self-government and user pay/user say. That concludes my opening remarks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. The Chairman of the social program which reviews the department under consideration will now make an opening remark. Mr. Enuaraq.

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee was generally satisfied with the presentation of the 1998-99 main estimates. The Members corresponded to the business plan and capital plan already reviewed by the committee. The committee made note of the following issues during its review of the 1998-99 main estimates of the Department of Justice.

Administration costs, the committee expressed its concern that there was no way to determine the total amount spent by the department on administration. There was also concern that the cost of human resources administration has been passed on to the department resulting in no net savings to the government as a whole. If anything, the money required to support human resources personnel, would reduce funds available for client-driven program delivery. The department has agreed to supply the committee with figures related to spending on

administration within the department.

The Standing Committee on Social Programs recommends this Standing Committee on Government Operations, requests that the government conduct an in-depth study as to whether any savings were lost by the dissolution of the Department of Personnel.

Justice of the Peace Program, the committee was pleased to hear that the department is allocating more resources to maintain this program. As in the case of coroners, the people who take on the responsibility of being justice of the peace in their home communities are often placed in unenviable positions between family and friends. The committee believes that as a government, we have a responsibility to support these people to the best of our ability. Of particular interest to the committee is the hiring of a justice of the peace coordinator. We need someone who can relate to the justice of the peace at the local and regional level, who can respond to the needs of the JPs and act on them. The committee looks forward to seeing a copy of the job description for the position. The committee also encourages the department to explore the possibility of expanding the use of JPs at the community level and to ensure there are JPs in each community. Committee members believe that if the JPs were willing and supplied with the right training, they could handle some family law in young offender cases, freeing up the court system.

The committee highly recommends that the person who is hired for justice of the peace coordinator be someone who has an in-depth knowledge of the north and its people.

The committee recommends that the corrections review by the department include at a minimum, the preparation of working papers on the state of corrections in each of the two new territories and addressing the issue of compliance with the federal corrections regulations to provide the new government with direction on resolving the serious issues facing corrections.

The committee recommends that the department formulate, in concert with the RCMP and the Interim Commissioner's office, a strategic plan for policing in the western territory and Nunavut.

A concern was raised that the Young Offenders Act is not being administered properly in some of the

smaller communities. Young offenders are being removed from their home community to a larger centre without their parents being given opportunity to intervene. When the child appears in court, there is little opportunity, given the often-prohibitive cost of travel, for their parents to attend. The committee noted that the community, for which this is a particular concern, also does not have a justice of the peace. Committee Members feel that this issue could be more appropriately handled by a JP who has the authority to deal with young offenders in the offender's home community. It is hoped that the new justice of the peace coordinator would address this issue. The Minister had committed to looking into the concern and responding to the Member that raised the issue. The committee would appreciate being copied on all correspondence on this issue.

The committee appreciated the opportunity to review the interim legal aid report. The committee looks forward to reviewing the final report and recommendations and providing its input into the process. Although the department explained that the legal services board is an arms-length agency, the committee is of the opinion that the department, as the funding provider, bears some responsibility for the implementation of the recommendations. The committee is concerned that the lack of legal aid for family law impacts negatively on families and children. As recommended, in one of the models put forth in the interim report, the committee adds its unqualified support for the hiring of a separate legal aid lawyer to deal with family law only.

Mr. Chairman, with your permission, I would like to ask Mr. Miltenberger, my deputy to continue with the report, please.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Miltenberger, would you carry on from where Mr. Enuaraq left off.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will deal with the coroner's office.

The committee appreciated the opportunity to discuss the outcomes rising out of the review of the coroners' office. The committee was generally pleased with the direction the government was taking and commends the department on its decision to implement all of the recommendations. However, there were some concerns that making the chief coroner a contract

position could result in higher costs to the department. The committee would appreciate being informed as to the successful candidate for the position of chief coroner and requests evidence that would alleviate the committee's concern regarding increased costs with a contract position.

There was a concern by the committee that there is no

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mechanisms for dealing with violent repeat offenders, other than having them declared dangerous offenders and imprisoned indefinitely. The committee realizes that the government must act within the parameters of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. However, the committee urges the Minister to work with federal and provincial counterparts to come up with a solution.

That concludes the report of the social programs committee on justice.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Thank you, Mr. Enuaraq. I would now like to determine if the Minister wishes to bring in the witnesses? Mr. Minister.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Yes, I would, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Do we have the concurrence of the committee? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Proceed. Thank you. Mr. Minister, for the record, would you please introduce the witnesses?

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have with me, Mr. Don Cooper, the deputy minister of the Department of Justice, Ms. Nora Sanders, the assistant deputy minister and Kim Schofield, the acting assistant director of finance, for the Department of Justice.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you and welcome to the committee. We are now open for general comments from the Members. Mr. Picco and Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and good afternoon. Mr. Chairman, the Department of Justice, like other departments within this government, over the last couple of years have suffered from the deficit reduction strategies of the government. I think two areas of justice have not been on the front burners as much as they should have been.

One of those would be the correction services itself and the lack of space for the inmates. The YCC and BCC are overcrowded. I believe the last figures I saw were that YCC itself was at 115 percent occupancy, and I believe Baffin Correctional Centre was 100 percent or 95 percent or even more. The Department of Justice has to get strong with our federal counterparts to help us in the area of building new correctional facilities. The facilities that we have today were not built for the demand that is in place.

Another concern that I have and has been brought forth to me in conversations in E-mails over the past few weeks is the need for a dedicated remand centre for women. Right now if a woman is taken into custody, there is no dedicated facility for a female. That is not acceptable. We have to look at some type of remand facility for women, a facility that maybe would be dedicated to women. We are seeing more and more people who are being incarcerated who are female and we do not have that ability right now.

I understand that like a lot of things, we have a wish list. There is a serious concern the previous Minister mentioned here in the House that, indeed, the BCC and the YCC had exceeded capacity. We have to do something with it. I know we do not have the funds, but we cannot just throw our hands up in the air and say nothing could be done. I would applaud the Minister on the direction he is taking the department in trying to open up facilities. Alternate facilities like the camps, to hopefully serve a purpose to take people out of the jails. The whole idea in the corrections area is that you incarcerate people for the sake of rehabilitating them, not just to put them in there, do their time and then they get out. The Department of Justice has made some good strides over the last couple of years in trying to facilitate education classes for academic upgrading for the inmates. The recent episode in Iqaluit where we had an untrained psychologist, who is now before the

courts, but that was a concern and later. We could find out exactly what type of resource they were going to dedicate to these facilities.

Moving on within the corrections area of the Department of Justice is the concern with the incarceration rates and also the concern with what is actually happening in the facilities. In my riding, where the Baffin correctional centre is located, we have seen quite a drop in the number of aboriginal or Inuit employees in the correctional centre over the past few years. That needs to be addressed. This has been mentioned to me several times by people in the community itself. It may have something to do with the stigma attached to working in those types of facilities or the stress. I do know, for example, last year that Arctic College was offering a training program for wardens and justice people. At the same time the Justice Department was trying to duplicate a similar program and actually paying people \$15.00 an hour to take a course. We brought it up in the House with the previous Minister about the contradiction in that. That was a concern. I think the Department of Justice should be coordinating closer in the regions with the college when these types of programs and training opportunities present themselves.

On the camps themselves, I think the camp initiative, as I said earlier, is a good one. We did have a camp in my riding that was cut two years ago because we went to the per diem amount. The problem we have with the per diem amount is because of the referral service between the judiciary side of justice. If there are no inmates or no people referred to the camp, then the camp does not get any money, but the people in the camp, using an outpost camp as an example, they still have to live there. They still have costs and expenses. I have a concern with that and hopefully it would be addressed. I guess that would be the beginning of my opening comments, Mr. Chairman. I would like just a general overview of what we are actually doing in the area of corrections and the needs. I should, actually, point out one other thing, Mr. Chairman, and that is several of our people in the YCC and the BCC should not be in a correctional facility. I think it is obvious to anyone who has been to the facilities or who is involved in justice, know that a lot of people have other problems other than criminal activity. We have major problems with mental illness and because we do not have any type of facility in the Northwest Territories, we end up referring and sending people to correctional facilities when in actuality they probably should be in other facilities. That is something I think the department

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has acknowledged and hopefully we could address.

Again, I know it all comes down to money but maybe our federal counterparts could help us. I would like to see a dedicated facility somewhere in Nunavut, of course, because after division one of the ideas of Nunavut, of course, was to bring people and government closer. To continue to have to send our people 2,000 miles away to Yellowknife or the south is not acceptable. I would like to know if the department has a plan or have they looked at a plan of expanding existing correctional facilities or hopefully building us some type of federal or remand centre somewhere in the Nunavut settlement area? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. In the general comments, traditionally we allow all Members to make opening comments and then, at the end, the Minister will then reply or respond. On the list I have Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Given the fact that division is imminent, and one of the fundamental programs that was targeted to have set up prior to division or in time for division was justice. Some of my concerns will be related to division, questions in relation to the courts, corrections and contractual arrangements that have to be negotiated between now and then.

I am also concerned about some of the legislation. I understand, for instance, that the Access to Information Act which was passed with the intent of being simple and relatively straightforward has, in fact, become implemented into a very cumbersome, difficult piece of legislation that puts us almost on par with the federal government, in terms of the onerous hoops. I would like to ask some questions about that. I am interested, as well, in the statutes revision that is underway. I am interested to know that while we may not be able to update all legislation that, in fact, we will be able to red flag legislation that is out-of-date or possibly needs upgrading because it is old, from the 60s or 70s and not quite relevant in today's world. I will be asking questions about how we are doing with implementing legislation that has in fact been passed, like the Personal, Properties and Securities Act. I will wait until the appropriate time, Mr. Chairman. There are a number of issues that I would like information on that I think relate to the budget and definitely to

division which, in the long run, is obviously a budgetary issue as well. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you kindly, Mr. Miltenberger. I have Mr. Enuaraq, opening comments. Mr. Enuaraq.

MR. ENUARAQ:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As we are dealing with justice and the justice issues, when we were dealing with social programs, I will have some concerns to this. I want to say to the social group that they did a good job doing the report as well, Mr. Chairman. I will also want to discuss Mr. Steen's concern that he raised earlier, with regard to the young people who were sent out of his home town to correctional-type facilities. Mr. Steen's concern was the parents were not advised when the young offenders were sent out. I also want to thank the Department of Justice for looking into concerns we have had earlier in the past. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (Translation ends).

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Enuaraq. General comments, Mr. Evaloarjuk. Qujannamiik.

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) This is not a new comment that I want to raise. This is not new to the Department of Justice. When people commit a crime and they are waiting to go to trial, they sometimes commit suicide because they are depressed. The reason why they commit suicide is because they have such a long wait until they are put in front of the judge. The waiting period is much too long. I understand that we cannot have judges every time we have a crime in our communities. The judges are very busy, as well, in their own communities. Perhaps, if the Department of Justice was given more authority to give out responsibilities to the judges to be a bit more quick in their response time, this might be part of the answer to the problem that we are facing today. As well, with regard to inmates who are sent out to other communities, other than their own communities, I will be using Igloolik and Hall Beach as an example, they can go back and forth quite regularly by skidoo. Sometimes a person from Igloolik is sent to Hall Beach and sometimes a person from Hall Beach is sent to Igloolik. They are usually given a warning not to go back to a certain community. Sometimes

problems occur when they have trouble by skidoo with regard to this type of travelling back and forth within nearby communities when you have to deal with an inmate.

If one community does not want to receive an inmate, maybe they can establish an elder's group or a justice group who will decide whether they should receive this inmate or not. Another ongoing problem that has arisen from time to time is the same people going back and forth to the correctional institute doing the same crime. You see people going back and forth from YCC or BCC and then doing the same crime again. People do not understand why the same criminals go back and forth all the time. Is it because they do not have a proper home anymore, or is it because they are getting free meals? I do not understand why this happens. This has been an ongoing problem for quite some time as well.

In some communities the elders are being involved as counsellors to people who commit crimes and for offenders. Maybe it would be better if the elders group in some communities are given the right to see this offender before they go in front of the territorial court. This might be a way to deal with repeated offenders, in particular. Another concern of mine has to do with justice in regard to people when they are dealing with older offenders, like elderly offenders. I am talking about people who are over 60 or 65. Sometimes these elders commit a crime and go through the courts. I am not saying they do not do anything wrong. With regard to older people who are over 65 and who have to be incarcerated, being an Inuk myself, they suffer a lot because they cannot communicate as well as a younger person would today, if they were in a correctional institute. This is my concern, when an older person is taken into correctional institutes. I do not mind if an older person is taken to jail or brought before the courts because of sexual abuse involving a young child, but I am concerned about older people who have to go to court who do not get enough support when they are in correctional institutions away from their homes. I am not in support of incest but, at the same time, I feel for the older people who are brought before the courts.

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These are the types of concerns that I would like to raise, Mr. Chairman. Thank you. (Translation ends)

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Evaloarjuk. General comments from Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in going over the Minister's opening comments, I am happy to see that we are looking at the situation with inmates and the pressures within the system. I, for some time now since being elected to this Assembly, have brought up the concerns of overcrowding. Although it is not a thing to be proud of, I know the Inuvik region has a high number of inmates in the YCC population. I must also applaud the department for looking to alternatives and using outpost camps more often. The situation still remains that we have overcrowding and that does not seem to be letting up at all. I look at facilities, for example in Inuvik Turning Point, which have changed its focus from a drug and alcohol facility to an early release program. Hopefully, that will work and slowly integrate the inmates back into the community instead of coming off of a plan where they have been in a situation for either months or just less than two years and going into the community and not have any program available. This is a good process. As well, we heard from Mr. Picco, who talked about facilities, where I know at one time, there was a study done by the Department of Justice on facilities. It was back when the federal government was looking at establishing other facilities, and they seemed to have taken care of their problem by building in the south. There is an area where we need to focus on.

Although we are doing more and more work that is proactive, as I said, we still have a large number of our population that is going into the system and does not seem to be letting up. I would encourage the Minister to look at that and to continue to look at how we can try and reduce the stresses in the system. We also need to look at existing facilities and commitment to rehabilitate those and unfortunately, the way the system is set up now with overcrowding, as we have heard on many occasions, the program function for rehabilitation is not being utilized to the extent it should be. Earlier in our Assembly, we heard Members talk about this and past Ministers who were responsible for the department mentioned that we stack them like cord wood in the facilities. Although this is not a good term to use, it is the comparison you can draw from. We have a lot of inmates who go into the system and when they complete their time in there, they come out and they have not had the opportunity to receive the necessary treatment or programs to totally function in the community. Although, we are looking at the avenues of alternative

programs, we must also look at facilities and their role in how we deal with those people who have become involved in the court system and end up spending time in such facilities. I would encourage the department to continue to look what can be done and what is available.

We are in tight financial times and hopefully, as things move ahead, we will be able to try to identify areas where we can focus on doing something where we can, and truly, help those who are looking for help once they become entangled in the situation. We do not continue to have that so called merry-go-round where they are in the system, out of the system and back in the system. I, for one, know many people from my area who have been involved in what it is just a continual cycle. This goes back to the programming and time they can spend when they are in a facility and to get the help that is necessary to make them productive members of our society. We have a lot of work to do ahead of us, but we have also come a long way in the community camps or the outpost camps. I know in Inuvik region, we have a number of those who seem to be working well. Hopefully the facility in Inuvik, as I referred to earlier, Turning Point, can play a part in helping to keep the inmates who are leaving the system to remain out of the system, and therefore, hopefully reducing the load of inmates in the facilities. With that, Mr. Chairman, I will end my comments. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have raised a lot of the issues with regard to the Department of Justice and one of them is, the camp facilities for low-risk inmates where they can be taken care of in the community with programs, such as is the case in Fort McPherson, we have the TI'oondih Healing Society. In Aklavik they have been working on the Knute Lang Camp. Also there have been efforts made to deal with the whole question of justice, healing and trying to find ways to work with the inmates to not deal with only the crime, but to deal with the individual and allow them to find a way to deal with the circumstances they find themselves in. A lot of those circumstances have to do with the lifestyle they are in. Unless you change your lifestyle and change the way you live your lives in regard to alcoholism, drug abuse and violence, in order to deal with those problems you

have to be able to deal with it one on one. You cannot expect to deal with all problems for everyone. It is an individual problem you are dealing with.

There has been money spent looking at developing proposals for the Knute Lang Camp in Aklavik and Fort Resolution which was approved by the previous Minister, who I believe was Mr. Kakfwi. They were working on formulating these on-the-land correction facilities to deal with these low risk offenders and allow them to serve their time in an environment that is familiar with them such as the Mackenzie Delta. We hear there are lots of overcrowding in our facilities, corrections staff is working long hours and the problem is going to be getting worse. We have to do something to stem the flow of inmates from the communities to these correctional facilities. A lot of time the inmates end up in jail because there is nowhere else to house them. We have to look at the whole area of Justice, but also keep in mind the healing approach in the communities.

In my experience in Fort McPherson with the Tl'oondih Healing Society, they have done a lot to deal with, not just the individual who has caused the crime, but the family as a whole who also feel the repercussions of taking that person away from the home. It affects not only the spouse but the children. It affects the income to maintain the well-being of the home. A lot of times these individuals have to go to social services to get through because the man of the house may have been working before and is now in a correctional facility somewhere outside the region. You have to look at it in the context of families. We cannot just deal with justice with the individual, but you have to deal with the family problems where we hear time and time again a lot of people keep going through this cycle of going to

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jail. A lot of times it is based on assault. A lot of time that assault is on the spouse of the individual, but yet you might deal with the person who caused the crime. You are not dealing with the spouse who has to live with that feeling of hurt from a person they love. They come back after being in jail and go through the same cycle again. In order to break that cycle, you have to deal with it in the context of the whole family.

Regarding the question about where do we get the monies for these new facilities, we have to look at it in the context of an investment. The cost to maintain and operate the existing justice system as it exists now is costly. We have to find new ways and

methods of dealing with the whole question of justice. What I am talking about is the area of community justice. People are now formulating these community justice committees and it is a good start. You have to allow them the ability to not only make recommendations but to have a say as to how that person is going to be rehabilitated. If that means that they suggest they put them in land-based facilities around the communities or within the regions, I think in the long-term that will probably be more helpful than continuing to try to put money into an existing process where we are finding it is costing this government more and more money because of overcrowding of our facilities and also the amount of time and effort that is being spent on keeping these inmates in those facilities maintaining staff and the workload in those facilities.

I would like the Minister or deputy minister to tell me exactly what role do they see the people and the communities taking. I have been asking many questions about the Tl'oondih Healing Society in this House in which that effort was put forth by the Gwich'in Tribal Council and Assembly to establish such an institution to deal with, not only the social problems, but trying to develop healthy people in the communities and in the region so that you have a healthy society that you can work with to find a system that you can deal with individuals, families, children, adults and work with them to identify the areas where those problems originate from. I do not think we are born as criminals. We are not born as offenders. We are not born to assault people. I believe it is hereditary. Until this government and the Department of Justice see that and deal with it as a disease just like alcoholism, drug abuse and violence, we will always continue to have the same cycle where people go in and out of institutions.

I would like to ask the Minister in regard to considering looking at some sort of a proposal in dealing with the Knute Lang Camp and Tl'oondih Healing Camp of possibly using these facilities to consider looking at some proposal to deal with those offenders in their regions and within an environment that they can relate to in regard to the Delta. With that, Mr. Chairman, I thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

I thank you kindly, Mr. Krutko. General comments from the Members of the committee dealing with Justice. Are there any further general comments? Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Naturally I agree with the recommendations and questions that have been raised in the report of the Standing Committee on Social Programs as I am a Member of that committee. I also wanted to comment briefly on some of the other areas I am interested in and have been outlined in the report.

The first area I wanted to touch on was corrections. It has been recognized for a long time now, Mr. Chairman, that our corrections facilities are dramatically overcrowded. One of the things that happens because of that is the lack of space for programs. If you just look at the name of the facilities, Mr. Chairman, they are called correction facilities. The reason for that is because we are supposed to be correcting people, hopefully in the way they think and the way they act so they can re-enter society as contributing members and not to consistently go back and forth in a revolving door. The lack of adequate space affects that. I know we are not walking with \$100 bills hanging out of our pockets to contribute to the capital budget, but this should be seriously looked at, Mr. Chairman.

I also wanted to comment that some months back, this committee had wanted to try to initiate the repatriation of federal inmates back to the north. It seemed as though, at that time, that the department almost took a hands-off approach which is unfortunate because to date, I do not think anything has really happened in that area to bring federal inmates back north who are in the south. There is an act whereby the federal government will pay to house federal inmates in the north. One of my areas of concern is that I do not think anything concrete is actually happening in this area. I would like the Minister to indicate what has been done since the fall to repatriate or to facilitate the repatriation of federal inmates to the north?

Another area I wanted to touch on is the legal aid area. For some time, the Social Programs Committee has been advocating the use of more lawyers in the legal aid offices so that there are more consistent services being provided and that people do not have to look around for various lawyers. Hopefully, that would also speed up the process in some of their situations. There was a report done by the legal services board, and in that report there was a recommendation that a separate legal aid lawyer to deal strictly with family law should be hired. Of course, this is something that we had recommended

some time back. I would like to know what has been done in this area, Mr. Chairman.

Under the coroner's office, there have been arrangements made for a new chief coroner on a contract basis. Hopefully, that person will get things back in order. The other area of concern I have under the coroner's office is the fact that there is a serious lack of space in the communities, facilities that people can use to prepare and store bodies while they are waiting for burial or for removal. This poses a potential health problem. The department should be seriously looking at this as well in order to try to rectify this problem or at least to alleviate it. Under violent offenders, this is an area, Mr. Chairman, that has to be looked at because right now there does not seem to be a way to deal with violent offenders who pose a threat to the community, people who consistently go into jail, come out and cause harm to their neighbours, relatives, friends and then land back in jail. The only way to deal with that is for the Crown's office to apply for and to get a person labelled as a dangerous offender. They are imprisoned indefinitely which means basically you throw them in jail and throw away the key. I do not think that is the answer. This department has to look at this. We have a lot of small communities, and when people come

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back to their communities and are a threat to their neighbours, there has to be a way to deal with that other than just locking them up forever.

The other area of concern I have is the community justice. I have talked to community people. Although this is a grand idea, and I fully support it, there does not seem to be enough money in the area and certainly not enough training. Once again, I acknowledge that we do not have too much extra money to be putting into all these areas of concern, however, I think we should be trying to find creative ways of utilizing our dollars and to perhaps collaborate with the federal government in order to make these dollars go a little bit further. In the area of training, for some time I have been advocating the development of a law program and a law program would go a long way to helping people working in the community justice area, as well as perhaps, coroners, justices of the peace, court workers and simply, people working within the court system. I know that the college is looking at developing such a program. I would encourage the department to work with the college and with the community that they have struck in order to actually ensure that a program is

developed and implemented. This might mean putting in a few dollars, Mr. Chairman, because researching and developing a course takes dollars.

Continuing in the area of training, the Minister Responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs has indicated she is willing to take a lead role in developing a community development course, certificate and diploma course. One of those courses would likely be a community justice course, so again I would ask the Minister and his department to collaborate with the Minister Responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs in developing a course that is relevant to the Department of Justice and that, of course, would mean contributing some dollars for research and development as well as manpower. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Any further general comments from the floor. If not, I will ask the Minister to respond to a number of questions and comments from the Members. Mr. Minister.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the Members for their comments and their suggestions and it is clear that many of the MLAs take the issue of justice very seriously and have put thought into ways of improving the system. What I would suggest is that rather than I trying to make comments on portions of everybody's comments, if we could get the specific questions and we could try to answer them that way. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. That will have to be through the details of the budget. Committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Directorate, page 7-6, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$3.801 million. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Mr. Chairman, could we be consistent with all the other presentations that we have had? The formula

that we used was that the Minister will be introducing which Members will make a statement in regard to the particular item and then after those statements he was going to respond to each request. That way, when we come to the budget, we do not have to go through every sector. That way he can address our concerns up front and then we may not have to go through every particular item.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Initially I have told the Members that the Minister will respond after each and every Member has made a general comment, but in the end, when I asked the Minister to respond, he indicated that rather than trying to respond to every question that he will reply or respond when the question is posed. I have asked the Members if they wish to go through the detail now and the Minister will respond when asked. Members agreed at that time. Right? Agreed? Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some Members did agree, but some Members disagreed as well.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. According to what I heard, the majority of Members agreed. That was my understanding. Directorate, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$3.801 million. Mr. Krutko and Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Regarding the directorate and policing, what has been done in regard to committing policing and training of community representatives to be involved in the policing efforts and working along with the by-law officers to give them a little more authority in the communities where a lot of times the RCMP is busy with other things in which the by-law officers could possibly take on more responsibilities in certain areas. What has been done in regard to community policing?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not trying to be difficult here, but I wonder if I could get your direction here. On page 82-7 we have the activity law

enforcement, which would cover off the concern or the question that the Member has. However, if you want us to respond to that specific question here under directorate, we would do so. Perhaps we could get some direction. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Third paragraph, we also have at the very end of the third paragraph here on the directorate, the division also oversees the financial aspect of the policing agreements. You are right, Mr. Minister, it is on the edge here. Mr. Krutko, would you perhaps rephrase the question or pursue. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the policing which is presently being carried out by the RCMP, there has been an initiative in place by the Department of Justice to work with communities where there have been pilot projects in place to look at training individuals in communities to get involved in the policing area and to work along with the RCMP and also be trained in Regina. I would like to ask the Minister, what is happening with this initiative and are they

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looking at expanding that to other communities which may include by-law officers?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Community Constable Program is one that is ongoing. During the last few months, we have had requests from communities or concerns that there are shortages of RCMP officers for one reason or another. As we look for options on how to deal with that, the Community Constable By-law Program is one that appears to be a viable option and is one that we encourage communities to look at and work with the department in identifying individuals to take the training. Presently, I am informed there are 33 community constable by-law officers throughout the NWT who have completed training courses at the RCMP Academy and some of the most recent trainees are now undergoing field coaching with the RCMP.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Community policing is on page 7-7, law enforcement. I am advised that the directorate just pays the bill for policing. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not believe the Minister answered my question. My question was, there is a pilot project initiative that this government is undertaking in which I asked if they have expanded that pilot project to include other communities?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Member is correct that there is a pilot project and there is currently a three-year project in Coral Harbour and Fort Good Hope which ended on October 1, 1997. The remaining community constables are currently working in the Community Constable By-law Program. The Department of Justice and the RCMP each contributed funding to enable the constables to continue working until April 1, 1998. At this point in time, we are planning to discuss further cost-sharing arrangements with the communities and the RCMP to decide what options are available beyond 1998. In terms of expanding the program to other communities will depend on several factors. One is resource, the money that we have, two, our view on whether this was a success and three, the interest in other communities.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Krutko

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the evaluation to determine which community gets what, is there going to be a call for proposals, show of interest or is it just going to be an independent decision? What role do the communities play in that decision?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this point in time, it is very difficult to be able to say whether the pilot project

will be expanded, and I would not want to give the impression that it would because, at this point, we do not know. As I said in my first answer to the Member's question, the Community Constable By-law Program is one that is viable and one that is available for communities that are interested. What it requires is interest from the community and discussions between the community, the RCMP and the Department of Justice.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the area of legal services, there was a dispute in the Inuvik region in the way funds were allocated to these different boards and agencies. Has there been anything done to restructure the formula to be more fairly distributed and ensure everybody there will have resources to deal with the number of clients and regional needs?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The issue, again, is covered off in a later activity of the legal services board on page 82-8. As I understand, it may be covered off generally under directorate. I would ask Ms. Sanders to answer the question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Ms. Sanders.

MS. SANDERS:

The Member is referring back to when the two regional legal aid clinic wards in that region were combined. This was over a year ago, so they have had a full year of operation after combining. Initially, they were not sure the budget would be sufficient. Although, it is true that anybody would always like a bigger budget, the fact is, they have managed all right under that budget, and it seems to be working out quite well. In addition to the budget for operating the clinic, they also have two staff lawyers placed there, and those positions are now filled. Things seem to be functioning pretty well.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Directorate, Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the way the funds are allocated to the different regions for legal services, do you take into account the numbers of clients they have to serve in a number of communities? A lot of times people go to court, but they seem only have a couple of minutes with a lawyer before going into court procedures because the lawyers usually fly in with the court party, go into the court and fly out. There has to be more monies and time spent with their clients before they are able to develop their submission to the court on behalf of the clients they represent. I would like to know, is that considered in the formula anywhere?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Krutko, you are referring to page 7-8, legal services board? I will allow Ms. Sanders to respond. Perhaps when we get to that, we will have the same response. Ms. Sanders.

MS. SANDERS:

It is one of the factors looked at. It is complex funding the regional clinics. The idea is to have a basic office there and then, there are staff lawyers placed there. In addition, as needed, there are private lawyers who come and

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serve the region if there are conflicts and that kind of thing. There is a range of factors that are looked at. The population of the region is one, the numbers of inmates, historical patterns in the courts, all those kinds of things. There is no magic formula, but I do not think there are any major disparities at this time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I have Mr. Miltenberger, Mr. Picco, Mr. Ootes. I will remind Members we are dealing with directorate. We will deal with directing, financial management services, and policy and planning. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the Minister give us an update on the Department of Justice and division? Administration of Justice was seen as one of the fundamental requirements necessary in Nunavut.

What is happening in that regard from a general overview under directorate? Then, I have more specific questions related to access of information. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. By the way, Mr. Krutko, your time was up. I recognized Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Minister.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Indeed, Justice has been identified, naturally, as one of the arms of government that is fundamental or basic during the set up of Nunavut, besides the legislative, the executive and others which have to be there. One of the areas the different parties, the federal government, the GNWT and NTI has agreed on, is a recommendation by the people of Nunavut through various means, such as the NIC, to set up a single level trial court. This is something we have agreed that we would work toward leading up to Nunavut. There are several factors that would affect how far along that could get. One of several reasons why this is important is exactly what Mr. Evaloarjuk had spoken about and that is Justice needs to be timely. Mr. Evaloarjuk spoke of how difficult it was for people who are charged with an offence who have to wait in their communities and made to wait time and time again as a court date is deferred. This is one of the reasons why this is an issue being discussed as we move toward division. There is work being done on things like legal registries. There are issues we are dealing with on how the Nunavut government will work with the GNWT in ensuring its legal registries is workable. There are logistics being worked on and things like statute revision which I spoke briefly about yesterday that we are working on currently among others. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On a more specific note, could the Minister indicate what is happening with the outstanding Labour Standards Board appointment?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Labour Standards Board had some vacancies and I believe the various parties were asked for recommendations for nominations including Members of the Legislative Assembly. Names were put forward. I understand there were interviews done. Although, I do not have a specific date on when the appointments would be, we are at the tail end of formalizing the appointments.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Considering this process has been going on for many, many months now, will the appointments be made before division?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am hoping they will be made during this fiscal year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Then, by March, 1999, this fiscal year, is that the right date I am looking at here or this fiscal year March 31, 1998? Thank you. I am so eager for division I am getting ahead of myself.

Access to Information, I would like to have some information on that. I understand what was intended to be a straightforward transparent process for the public to get information from the government, has been turned into a very, very complicated process that even the people trying to implement it, have trouble understanding it. It is taking an inordinate amount of time and resources to process even the simplest request. If you do it right, you never have to respond because you can keep it bouncing around in the system. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

In terms of time line, Mr. Minister, I think you nodded, but unfortunately it is not written. Perhaps, you can say yes now. Mr. Minister.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

First, on the board appointments, I did indicate that it would be my preference the appointments be made in the next six weeks. It would depend on how far along in the process we are. I do know that, from the last correspondence I saw, we were very close to finalizing the appointments. On the Access to Information, the Department of Justice is charged with the task of coordinating access to information requests. This is something relatively new in the last year or so. It is certainly something the government is working its way through. There may be specific cases, as the Member mentioned, that are slow and cumbersome. If that is the case, then it would have more to do with growing pains, I would think, rather than any kind of effort to slow information down.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was talking to a person responsible for looking at overseeing this particular act in the department. I was physically in the office and saw the volume of paper and the amount of work, rigmarole and hoops. I can tell you very clearly, my opinion is not just an individual circumstance, but there appears to be an implementation problem and a procedural problem where it is almost like a sense of overkill in terms of the requirements. I would ask if the departments were polled, what kind of

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response would you get, that it is wonderful, that there is the odd glitch or that we have created something of a nightmare in terms of implementing which was supposed to be a simple act? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am going to ask Mr. Cooper to respond to that question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Cooper.

MR. COOPER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to reiterate what the Minister said with respect to the fact, the act is relatively new. It is a little over a year old and that neither the public nor the departments have a great deal of experience with it. Some access requests are straightforward and can be dealt with very simply and very quickly. Others are more difficult to deal with if the person requesting is asking for access to Cabinet documents, privilege documents and this sort of thing or wish to access a broad range of documents going back in time, ten or fifteen years, then the requests are more difficult. Perhaps within another year, we will, as a government, be evaluating how the act is working. Once we have had more experience with it and, at that time, perhaps look at making some changes. I know this act, Mr. Chairman, is difficult to administer. It causes great problems in almost every jurisdiction. We are not unique. If there are problems, then, we are not at all unique. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Your time is up. We are dealing with directorate. I would remind Members to deal with issues relating to that heading. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the directorate division is responsible for the senior management of the department, including monitoring goals and objectives and personnel services. On the question of personnel services, in response to an old question today, it was pointed out that there is no specific staffing function located at the Baffin Correctional Centre. Why is that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Justice, personnel services are all located in Yellowknife. There are no personnel functions out in the regions. It is a matter of the way the department has decided to do its business and also a matter of resources.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you. In light of the recent incident, would the department be reviewing that situation?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess the short answer is no. The situation in Iqaluit was having to do with the psychologist or non-psychologist who was recently charged. In the specific case, I believe what the department is doing is reviewing to ensure the procedures are very clear and that everything was done according to the book. That would not cause the department to consider putting personnel officers or human resource-type people out in the field.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, when the Department of Personnel was eliminated, one of the major concerns was the affirmative action policy and who would be monitoring that within individual departments. The complaint that I have heard many times, and so have some of my other Nunavut colleagues at the correctional centre in Iqaluit, is that the number of Inuit employees has dropped considerably. You have unilingual elders who now have been incarcerated and the services are not available to them to the degree that should be there. I am wondering two things, Mr. Chairman, if you would allow me. One is, who is monitoring your affirmative action policy there and what steps are you taking other than that what we talked about earlier in opening comments to actually staff more Inuit at the correctional centre?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Yes. Just on the first point, I think it is highly debatable, whether or not we had a personnel-type function there, whether the incident in Iqaluit would not have happened. Looking at the case, I would think it would have still happened. The issue of affirmative action employees, more aboriginal employees in the justice system, in corrections, is one

that I am concerned with. I have had discussions with Cabinet, with senior staff about it and there are things that the department is doing to try to get more aboriginal people to work in justice and in particular in corrections. I would ask the deputy minister perhaps to elaborate a bit further, if that is okay with you?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Cooper.

MR. COOPER:

Yes, Mr. Chairman. In 1996 the department produced, and was the first to produce, an Inuit employment plan identifying a number of activities that would be undertaken. The first among them were to review all job descriptions, to remove all systemic barriers. The department developed a corrections officer basic training course where interested aboriginal candidates would be trained for a three week period, paid between \$14 and \$15 dollars an hour, and all of those who successfully completed the course were hired. If the course was set up as a competition, then they were hired to pursue into a competition and if it was not, they were directly appointed. We have dedicated considerable effort in Nunavut to advertising these career opportunities, to preparing materials and disseminating those materials and explaining what is involved in this kind of career. We have recently, in the late fall, just completed what is now called a correction entry level training program in the Baffin. Just the nature of what I described. The name is changed because it now includes not just corrections officers in adult facilities but also in the young offenders facilities.

I am told that 11 Inuit applied for the positions. Six were declared suitable. Two were hired. We have another four officers that are going to be hired as a result of a rebasing

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exercise that took place last year. We are confident that we will be able to hire some candidates, but to be frank with the Member, it seems we have difficulty attracting a lot of Inuit people to this kind of career path. It could be because, it has been mentioned, there is some stigma attached to corrections or a combination of that and other factors such as working indoors all day long. Whatever it is, we have attempted to meet the challenge head on. We are working at it as hard as we can and with great earnestness and sincerity to try and fill the positions

as best we can. I can say that 25 percent of the staff at the Baffin Correctional Centre are indigenous, aboriginal people. I am not sure if that has gone up or down. I do not believe it has gone down. It is not a representative number, but it does I believe, show progress from the past. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you. I will have an opportunity later to maybe ask some more questions on personnel. I do know when I spoke to some of the employees at the BCC, before Christmas, they said that when they had Inuit wardens on shift, there were fewer problems within the jail. That seemed to be the consensus.

Moving to the directorate, the deputy minister also serves as a legal advisor to Cabinet. I am wondering how much time is the deputy minister spending providing legal advice to the Cabinet and how is that billed back to the Executive? Is there user pay/user say here, in this case? Does the Justice Department bill the Executive department for the skills of the deputy minister or the advice that the deputy minister gives? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Minister.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Traditionally, the deputy minister of Justice sits in, along with various officials, in Cabinet meetings. From time to time, if required, he would have input or give advice on legal matters. That is exactly what happens now. As for the number of hours per week, it is insignificant, I would say, but also it is not a user-pay situation. There is no billing back to the Executive or to Justice.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Your time is up. I have Mr. Ootes and Mr. Erasmus on the directorate, total operations and maintenance. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last week, the Member for Hay River made reference to the meeting she was called to with the Premier back in November. She

stated the assistant deputy minister for Justice was present at that meeting. Last week during the question period, she asked for clarification respecting a policy of this government in using senior personnel of the Department of Justice and specifically the ADM, who is a lawyer, in what Mrs. Groenewegen considered a personal and a political meeting. The Premier stated there is no policy but for clarification could I ask the deputy minister if there are some constraints that the justice officials may be under when it comes to discussion of political issues among Members?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I believe the question is directed to the Minister. Minister Arlooktoo.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Premier had answered questions on this issue and I believe has, or is in the process very soon of providing a letter to Mrs. Groenewegen to clarify some of the questions. In terms of what occurred at the meeting. I believe, as the Premier stated in the House at the time, he wished to have a witness at a meeting which could prove to be controversial and, therefore, wanted a third party to be there as a witness to ensure that whatever was spoken at the meeting was clear to both parties in case it was brought up later. So it had nothing to do with whether there was a policy in the books or not but it was a wish of one party at a meeting to have a witness and therefore, appropriately asked the ADM of Justice to be there.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are there constraints that justice officials are under when it comes to meetings on a political level between two Members of this House?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, can I get the Member to clarify his question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Could you clarify the question, Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

The question is, do the senior justice officials are they under constraints, do they have any regulations or guidelines that would constrain them from participating in meetings between two Members of this House.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Senior officials of government, when sitting in at meetings with the MLAs or Ministers, all pretty much service a similar purpose. That is to be there as resource people, to be there for assistance and guidance when asked. I would think that there is, in fact, a difference between participating when asked and being involved in political discussions. I would say that there is some natural constraint there.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Premier committed to make the notes available to the Member who asked for them. It is my understanding and I stand to be corrected, but normally lawyers are noted for their use of 8 x 10 foolscap and putting their notes down on paper and keeping those notes. Now when the Premier committed to provide notes, I interpret that to be those particular notes. My question for the Minister is, will those notes be handed over to the Member. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. We are examining the Department of Justice, directorate. It has nothing to do with a note. Mr. Minister will you care to respond.

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HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The question was asked in a different way earlier. I did say that I understand that

the Premier, if he has not done so already, will very soon be supplying the Member for Hay River with information by letter on what he had committed to in the House about that particular meeting.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Directorate. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On another matter, if there is an investigation by the RCMP in some facet or another into the government of the Northwest Territories, to what extent is the Department of Justice informed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I explained in the House the other day, the RCMP is an independent body, although we are connected in that we administer the contract with them, we have no authority or control over how the RCMP conducts its business or how it investigates. The previous Minister of Justice did give an update to the House on what the RCMP had said about the status of the investigation and that is, that it was ongoing. That is all that I can give.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Directorate. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is with regard to the policies of this directorate. They are responsible for payment of the RCMP. There must be some guidelines and regulations that are in place between the two. Could the Minister tell us, is it the procedure for the RCMP to inform the deputy minister or the officials within the department of any police investigation?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Do you have MOU, Mr. Minister?

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask the deputy minister to clarify that point. To make it clear once

again, the GNWT, through the Department of Justice, does not have control or authority on how the RCMP conducts its investigations. As I said in the House the other day, it is the federal government's Department of Justice that is in charge of the prosecution office which they run here in Yellowknife. The GNWT Department of Justice has nothing to do with it. But with the other part of the question, perhaps Mr. Cooper could answer it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Would you expand from here, Mr. Cooper?

MR. COOPER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The relationship between the department and the RCMP is governed not by written protocol, but more or less by convention which would obtain not only here but in every province of Canada and probably Australia and England and all the commonwealth countries. The way it works is that it is quite legitimate for us to suggest to the RCMP that we feel it is important that they, for example, dedicate more effort, more of their resources to something like aboriginal policing, restorative justice or that we feel that it is important to increase the size of the economic crime unit because of a rash of frauds or something like that.

We do not ever become involved in active investigations or cases. We would never make any suggestion to the RCMP whatsoever as to how they should conduct an investigation. They do, as a courtesy, inform me often that certain investigations are going on. The reason for that is that the senior legal officer in the land, the Attorney General for the Northwest Territories, has an interest in knowing about some investigations that are going on. The one involving this government really did not come to light until the fact of that investigation was made public, I think by CBC or the newspapers. I hope that answers the Member's question. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The Member's time is up. I have Mr. Erasmus who has not spoken yet at this time and Mr. Steen who has not spoken. Mr. Picco and Mr. Krutko, because they have spoken, they are down the list, although they are on the list. We will be taking a break very soon. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the Minister's opening comments, he indicated that no reductions are proposed in the previous year's main estimates. He does not indicate if there is an increase. We know that every year there are supplementary appropriations, just as there was this year. Did this department receive more funding under supplementary appropriations this year?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Minister.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It was not too long ago, several months ago, that the Department of Justice, through a rebasing effort from the Financial Management Board, received an extra \$983 thousand to deal with deficiencies, I believe mostly in the corrections area.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Was that reflected in a previous supplementary appropriation?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that was included in supplementary number three that has been passed through this House.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the directorate, Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand there is another supplementary appropriation forthcoming. Will there be more money in that supplementary directed toward Justice?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, before I let Ms. Schofield give some information in the area of supplementary appropriations, I would just indicate that there are some areas that we are reviewing in the area of corrections, staffing and others where we do know there are deficiencies. What we do not know is what exactly is needed and what we can convince others that the department should have. But in terms of future supplementary appropriations that the department would require, Ms. Schofield could answer.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Ms. Schofield.

MS. SCHOFIELD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Along with the \$983 thousand that was received in 1997-98 supplementary appropriation number three, the department will also go ahead with \$1.6 million for corrections in supplementary appropriation number one for 1998-99. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Directorate, total operations and maintenance, \$3.8 million. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In view of the Minister's statement that there are no reductions proposed, does that mean that this includes the \$2.6 million extra that is being received through the supplementary appropriations?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Arlooktoo.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The statement that there are no reductions proposed refers only to the budget to the main estimates themselves. The \$983,000 and the \$1.6 million that were referred to is over and above the main estimates.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It seems to me that if you need an extra \$2.5 million this year to do your operation that there is going to be another \$2.5 million needed this coming year. Is that money reflected in the rebasing and the money that was used, which is basically an extra \$2.6 million, is that reflected in these main estimates that we are looking at today?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I am advised that we are talking two fiscal years. Mr. Minister.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I said earlier, the \$1.6 million and the \$983,000, are over and above the main estimates. They are, in fact, rebasing exercises and will be ongoing additions to the main estimates.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Directorate. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those will be ongoing costs, but can we then assume that those costs are already added into these main estimates and that there is not going to be another supplementary for \$2.5 million this year?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The main estimates that we have in front of us refer to what we are proposing to use in the coming year, but on top of that the Department of Justice, through consultations with Cabinet and FMB, has arranged to have this extra amount rebased to the base. What will happen from here on in the next main estimates is this amount will automatically be in future budgets.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Mr. Chairman, I am having a difficult time understanding this. Is the Minister saying that this \$2.6 million is actually for this coming fiscal year's

budget and is not reflected in these main estimates we are looking at?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The main estimates document is prepared at a certain period of time of the year. The \$983,000 that was approved in supplementary number three and the \$1.6 million that we expect will be in the next appropriation were put in way after this documented was printed and bound. That is the way I would put it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Erasmus, final.

MR. ERASMUS:

Mr. Chairman, I am trying to ascertain whether that money we are talking about in those supplementaries, was that used in the previous fiscal year or is that for the coming fiscal year that we are looking at here today, the 1998-99 estimates?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I will allow the Minister to respond and then we will take a break. Mr. Minister.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The extra money, as I indicated earlier, was to try to deal with the deficiencies in the base in areas where the Department of Justice has had shortfalls before. The \$983,000 that was approved in supplementary number three would cover off the current year's shortfall, and the \$1.6 that we are proposing for the next supplementary would be added to the base for the next time around and onwards.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. With that, we will take about a 15-minute break. Thank you.

--Break.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Welcome back. I would like to call the committee back to order. I hope the little break did some justice to Members. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, first of all I would like to commend the department for undertaking the Outpost Camp Program for those inmates who are not serious offenders or I presume, not repeat offenders. I think it would be very effective in particular in the younger age group, whereby we do not have repeat offenders.

My question is in regard to the directorate. It says the division is responsible for monitoring goals and objectives of the

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department. My question, Mr. Chairman, is regarding the cutbacks in police services and the different justice programs that we have taken on. I wonder if the department could give me a short rundown on their opinion as to the monitoring aspect of it, whether or not what effect reduced RCMP presence in the small communities in particular, what effect that is having and how the communities are responding? As well as how the communities are accepting community justice committees? In particular, I would be concerned in my region in the Beaufort. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the police contract, the current value of the contract on the law enforcement side is over \$28 million. I would have to ask one of my officials to give historical information on whether or not there have been cutbacks in recent times. Could Ms. Sanders give an update on that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Ms. Sanders.

MS. SANDERS:

I stand to be corrected but I do not think we have had any detachment cutbacks just recently. It is something that it is always a possibility when financial times are tight. I think what is happening, is not that

we have cut the RCMP back but they are feeling the crunch from Ottawa as well. Some of their expenses have gone up and that kind of thing. What they have tried to do is make a priority to keep the small detachments open because they know you need to have some kind of presence. They have done their best to do that. More and more, they are also trying to share resources by having administrative tasks performed, what they are calling a hub basis. Every community may have an officer, but they may not do all the administrative functions, those kinds of things to centralize that a little bit within regions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Steen, you may want to clarify the question. That is up to you, Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Mr. Chairman, the vision of the department was safe and secure communities, supported by an accessible, responsive and effective justice system. Under the directorate, it suggests they monitor how they achieve these goals. Now I am not suggesting whether the department cut back on the RCMP services or whether the feds did it, but the point is, it was cut back. For instance, Sachs Harbour used to have two police. There is nobody there now. I am not aware of Holman Island, whether Holman Island ever had a permanent police officer but I understand for a short term they did. He is gone. Paulatuk is the same situation. We are reducing programs to these communities and replacing them with other programs. What I want to know is, how effective does the department see it? In their opinion, are we achieving our goals?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The issue of how the Department of Justice monitors our vision of safe and secure communities through the different goals is one that we take seriously. The member gives some examples of where the RCMP has had reductions in actual personnel from communities. I would say that is not a unique case. I personally do know of other communities where there is a shortage and it is not necessarily because of cutbacks. It is more having to do with forced-growth, increasing costs, but at the same time the actual budgets are not keeping up with

the cost of doing business. Even though you do not see any reductions in the amount of money, the budget is not keeping up with actual costs.

I do know the Department of Justice has regular discussions with RCMP on how the money there could be best used. The deputy minister gave some examples earlier about the Department of Justice giving suggestions on possible areas for increased or decreased work. More recently when I met with the RCMP brass here in Yellowknife, we discussed having more cooperation in dealing with the finances, the actual administration of finances and exchanging resources or expertise there.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Mr. Chairman. Thank you. Mr. Chairman, does the department have statistics as to whether or not crime has increased in the communities after the RCMP left? Do they have statistics showing whether serious crime has increased? Has crime in general increased? Has small time crime increased? Do they have those kinds of figures? Also, have the programs we have been using, like community justice committees, been effective in reducing the amount of crime in the communities? That is what I am talking about.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would say that probably in all cases if the RCMP member has left, there is little way of having an accurate picture, whether or not crime has gone up in that particular community. Crime statistics is something that, I guess, could be influenced by several factors, such as who reports the acts, what is reported and the monitoring, whether the department knows if crime levels or statistics go up in particular communities when the RCMP moves out of town. I guess the short answer is we do not know.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Mr. Chairman, my last question. What is the department monitoring?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Chairman, can I ask the Member to repeat that question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Yes, I will allow that. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Mr. Chairman, my question was if they are not monitoring the activities, the success or effectiveness of the existing programs we have, including the effectiveness of those programs, my question was, what are we monitoring because it says here they are monitoring the goals and objectives of the department.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was responding to a question specifically to whether crime statistics do go up when the RCMP officer leaves. Now in terms of general statistics for a community, I know that the numbers are kept for how many charges are laid in a particular community. We are required to do that. The community justice committee does have numbers also on how many referrals they receive to their particular group. The RCMP, of course, keeps their own numbers, so there is monitoring. The numbers are there, but we do not have them here with us right now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. With that I thank Mr. Steen. His time is up. Directorate is on the list. Are there other Members who have not spoken to this particular activity wish to speak? If not, then I will recognize Mr. Krutko. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have a question regarding the directorate. I just want to get some direction if it is okay to ask at this time. It is regarding certain court cases in Canada, especially when it comes to aboriginal rights and the whole process that is starting up in the territories on aboriginal self-government.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Chairman, I did not hear a question there, maybe the Member could restate it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Yes, it is okay to ask Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is regarding some court cases in southern Canada, especially when it comes to aboriginal rights, especially in New Brunswick, British Columbia, in which they clearly identify it in regard to the rights for aboriginal people regarding subsistence, harvesting of trees and also the question about extinguishment. I would like to ask the Minister, has his department taken a look at these court rulings and how he could implicate what goes on in the territories, especially decisions that are made by governments by giving out timber licences where areas have not been surrendered yet through claims or what not?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, in general the department does monitor what is going on in the rest of the country and does try to keep track of the major cases that the Member cited. I will ask Mr. Cooper to perhaps if he can, give some detail on it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Cooper.

MR. COOPER:

As the Minister has said, we do monitor and review relevant cases concerning aboriginal law that are

decided throughout the country. A case decided in British Columbia or New Brunswick is not necessarily binding on the Northwest Territories, although it may be persuasive and a lot of these cases seemingly get appealed to the Supreme Court of Canada. When decisions come from that body that becomes the law throughout the country and we certainly abide by all the laws as decided by the Supreme Court of Canada. In terms of political development in relation to aboriginal law that tends to be handled by the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs and we provide the legal advice. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My other question is regarding the area of self-government and the inherent right in regard to self-government negotiations and the right for aboriginal people to negotiate self-government arrangements. In the case of the Yukon where they have self-government agreements as part of their comprehensive claims agreement, they do have the right to establish institutions in regard to courts and basically the administration of justice. Is this department considering looking at that sort of concept when it comes to self-government negotiations in the west in the Northwest Territories?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Qujannamiik. Mr. Cooper.

MR. COOPER:

Cabinet sets policy for this government in terms of what may or may not be looked at. Our department does not have carriage of this particular issue. It is the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs. I am not trying to duck the question, but we do provide legal support for Aboriginal Affairs and we have three lawyers who are dedicated to supporting that process. Again, in terms of political direction based on a legal foundation, MAA has carriage of that issue.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the whole area of self-government, one of the perimeters that they are looking at is the administration of justice. When you say you are not trying to establish road blocks or what not in that process, technically, the Department of Justice is involved in that process, but when you make decisions in Cabinet which may bound the other party from being able to negotiate those items such as developing their justice system and having correction facilities to represent their particular aboriginal organizations. For instance if the Gwich'in wants to establish their own justice system dealing with how they are going to establish their aboriginal justice committees to looking at the role they are going to play in regard to the correction facilities that they are going to use and the type of responsibilities they are going to take on under Justice. How can you say on one hand that you are not responsible, yet there are decisions that you are making now that will have an implication on that process which is presently underway and you are at the table at those negotiations?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the deputy minister clearly stated that although the Department of Justice does have a role in providing legal advice to this process, it is the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs. The Minister of Aboriginal Affairs has the lead, and I understand that he takes the advice and direction of the Cabinet and the Cabinet's constitutional affairs committee that sets the perimeters or the guidelines on how negotiations are going to proceed. In

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general, the Department of Justice provides a technical, legal assistance to the process rather than leading the process.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Directorate, Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The point I am trying to make is that there is a process which is presently underway especially in regard to the MacKenzie Delta and also Dogribs and other aboriginal organizations are seriously looking at the way Justice is being

delivered to the people they represent. If through those processes of negotiations for the aboriginal groups in which one of the items they have a right to negotiate is Justice. This department who is responsible for Justice, the last time I checked, has the fundamental right to ensure that they have the ability to negotiate all aspects of Justice that effect the aboriginal people in question. In the case, I used an example in the Yukon where their precedent has been set where they do have the right to establish their own justice systems for the aboriginal groups in the Yukon. Here, the Department of Justice has a legitimate role to play in those negotiations. You cannot snuff it off to someone else. It is the Department of Justice's budget that will have to allocate and distribute those funds for the administration of the courts, the correction facilities if they are established through that system and also, the overall costs of operations and maintenance and administration of that system once it is established. I find it appalling to have to say that you do not have a role in regard to the aboriginal self-government initiative which is established through section 35 of the Canadian Constitution. It recognized the inherent right for people to negotiate that. They are negotiating in the provinces; they are negotiating on reserves; they are negotiating through land claims agreements such as the umbrella agreements in the Yukon in regard to looking at justice arrangements in British Columbia and right across the country. This government does have a role to play in regard to the processes that are in place now and if we do not, come right out and say it, my view is there is a role for this government to play.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

That is a third party. What is the rule here, Mr. Minister?

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you. If I could just clarify before Mr. Cooper makes a comment on this, I did not say that we do not have a role. It is that we do not have a lead role. The Department of Justice is very interested and involved in this government's role in the self-government negotiations. I, as a Minister, as a member of the Constitutional Affairs Committee of the Cabinet, and as is the deputy minister very deeply involved with the Constitutional Affairs Committee. We did state that we have three lawyers dedicated to this side of the self-government negotiations. What we were clarifying is what specific role do we play in this process. I would like to ask Mr. Cooper to add a bit more detail to that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Cooper.

MR. COOPER:

Mr. Chairman, I would just add that the Department of Justice is a service department. We have legal registries and courts, policing, corrections, coroners, labour standards and so on. We have a role to play and have been at some preliminary negotiations at the Beaudel table. All departments are being called upon to attend those negotiations to discuss within a framework agreement which was negotiated among the three parties, what and how could be transferred or devolved to the claimant group. We are in negotiations as a department, but to date, it has been more of an exchange of information session and identifying areas where the claimant group would like to be involved and examining some of the aspects of that involvement in terms of its pragmatism and whether or not it would make sense to take over legal registries, or whether or not the claimant group would want to take over legal registries and that sort of thing. We are not there as political advocates for our own department. Others in Ottawa and this government's Cabinet have decided the extent to which perhaps justice, education, health and some of the other housing, these powers and responsibilities will be transferred to the claimant groups and not this particular department. The Member is correct to say we are involved in the negotiation, but we have not set or tried to set the political agenda.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Your time is up, Mr. Krutko. Directorate, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the Minister clarify exactly what the aboriginal justice directorate for administration of justice does?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One moment please. Mr. Chairman, if the Member is referring to the aboriginal justice directorate, that is, as I understand it, part of

the Federal Department of Justice and not the GNWT Department of Justice.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What role does the Government of the Northwest Territories play with regard to this? You said it is a federal responsibility but is there any role for the GNWT to play with regard to the way the aboriginal justice directorate administers efforts in the territories?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As far as I understand, there is very little direct involvement. The Department of Justice assists, however, in communicating between this federal directorate and communities as they are working through funding contribution processes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to the proposal that was put forth regarding facilities, camps for young offenders or low-risk inmates, will this department consider looking at proposals from aboriginal groups or organizations that may want to consider housing inmates within facilities they already own?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

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HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, this area will be covered later on under the community justice and corrections activity. In general, the response would be, we are interested in speaking with individuals and groups that would like to start up, or see if they could start up a correctional type camp or facility that is

within the scope I had talked about in the House the other day.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Directorate. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask you for direction. May I continue my questions with regard to my previous question asking about the possibility of groups who may consider putting forth a proposal to this department regarding these camps? May I continue my questioning under the directorate?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I am advised this question is better directed under community justice and corrections. At this time, however, I will allow the Minister to respond. I caution the Members to try and stick to the item under the heading directorate at this time.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Chairman, I do not think there was a question, but if I could anticipate one, the way the department funds these types of young and adult offender camps, is through a per diem basis of x dollars a day, whichever it is, per inmate or offender.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Directorate. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question deals more with policy than the planning of this division, so it falls within the directorate. The reason I am asking my question is, there have been attempts made by the people I represent in the Mackenzie Delta region to look at the possibility of some mechanism for looking at proposals. They were considering looking at the whole area of developing infrastructures. The proposal that was put forth by Fort Resolution and Aklavik, there was something like \$50,000 spent to look at developing such a proposal at one time. It seemed like the policy of this government has been changed and they basically backed away from that proposal. I see there are initiatives such as the Gwich'in who have developed the TI'oondih healing camp, which cost them in the area of \$2 million. There already is a facility built and the only cost to this government will be for operating the camp facility and

securing the inmates, which is no additional cost of where we see in the budget of over \$2 million, which is going to go to pay for the extra cost that has been associated through supplementary appropriation because of the costs to this government of the amount of inmates we have versus the amount of guards and overtime that is being put in.

It is because of that initiative we should seriously consider looking at changes to the policy to allow for such proposals to come forth, if they are financially sound. I am asking the government if they would consider such a policy change in this government of looking at that type of arrangement to allow for the aboriginal organizations to develop infrastructures for the Department of Justice, which may already be built. Therefore, the cost to this government is only a matter of leasing the facility or the cost of guards and what not that will be needed to ensure the inmates are held securely.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What we are talking about are two different classes of facilities. One, that the Member mentioned was the one-time planned community corrections centre, that was planned but did not materialize in Aklavik and in Fort Resolution. I understand that one of the reasons they did not materialize was because the operations and maintenance costs for operating these two facilities was quite high and in the long-term they would have proved to be much more expensive.

The other class of facilities, if I could, many of these facilities are adult offenders camps. There are, as I understand it, proposals from the Aklavik Indian Band for some camps. For at least one of the proposals they are very close to finalizing an agreement. Those are the types I did say in the House the other day, we are willing to move forward on. In terms of what we can do in the future, we can keep talking and discussing what we might want to do as government, what the community wants to do and what the region wants to do, but in the end, it will be the resources or the dollars which dictates what we can do.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Your time is up. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Further to my earlier questions about the supplementary appropriations, the Minister had indicated there was \$1.6 million, for the 1998-99 fiscal year, a rebasing. Can we be confident, then, that the department will not bring forward another request for supplementary funding during the fiscal year?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Arlooktoo.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Chairman, before Mr. Cooper attempts to clarify even further what I had tried to answer before, the short answer to Mr. Erasmus is that we do not know that we will be asking for supplementary appropriations. There are several factors that might cause it. One is the policing contract. There is a nationwide issue and possible benefit changes and if that does go ahead, that would affect the GNWT and our contributions. We have the legal aid budget which I am unsure of right now if it is on track or not. Mr. Cooper could perhaps shed some more light on that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Cooper.

MR. COOPER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department received a rebasing of some \$900,000 for an anticipated shortfall in the 1997-98 fiscal year. An additional \$1.6 million has been approved for supplementary appropriation for 1997-98. That is for staffing deficiencies so there will be additional guards and classification officers hired. We are in the process of hiring them now for the Baffin Correctional, South Mackenzie and YCC. The previous Minister of Justice, the Honourable Kelvin Ng commissioned a study and a report by an expert. The first part of that report indicated the staffing was most necessary, if nothing else, a safety factor. The second part of

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that report will be forthcoming in March. It is anticipated it will identify further deficiencies in corrections, some of which have been spoken of by Members here today. Minister Arlooktoo, together with some Cabinet colleagues, will look at that report and decide what action to take in response to it. It

may possibly result in looking for further appropriation.

As for legal aid, it has been cut quite severely in the last two years. It is having a great deal of difficulty living with the budget it has, and we anticipate that the chairperson of the legal services board will be requesting additions to that budget, but it has not been quantified as yet.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Cooper. For the record, we are on Bill 8, Appropriation Act, 1998-99, Department of Justice directorate, total operations and maintenance, \$3.801 million. I have Mr. Erasmus and Mr. Picco. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The area I wanted to clarify was the area of corrections because I know we seem to be having a problem there. With these additional guards hopefully, this will have rectified that problem of overtime and all the rest of this that we have encountered?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Minister.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Chairman, I cannot give a detailed answer to that, but the rebasing the department received will allow the department to hire more guards and workers for the correctional centres. It will go a distance in relieving that. Whether it would completely remove things like overtime or not, I do not know, but it does greatly help the problem.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. Operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$3.801 million. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I had asked some questions earlier under personnel services, and I know the Minister is committed to trying to increase Inuit involvement at our facility in Nunavut which is the BCC. Could the Minister or the staff, other than the training program that you talked about earlier, where you had two people out of nine, I think the figure was

higher? What type of program or commitment is the department working on to increase Inuit employees at the Correctional Centre? When you gave the figure earlier, you said 25 percent, but I believe if you check your numbers on that 25 percent, you will find that indeed, that is everyone at the facility, including washers, janitorial staff and everything. I was thinking about the actual people involved in corrections themselves, wardens and so on. I am sure the Minister remembers a few years ago, we actually had the assistant warden who was an Inuk person. Somehow, that number over at the BCC has gone down very, very low. I have talked, as the Minister has, to some of the people working there and that is a concern. Exactly what will the department be doing about that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Arlooktoo.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the deputy minister indicated earlier, 25 percent of the BCC staff is under the affirmative action policy. We do have an Inuit employment plan that is required by the Nunavut Act, which would see the department participate in a government-wide effort to get more representative levels of aboriginal people in the workforce and in the Nunavut side, I believe the plan is 50 percent by 1999 and 85 percent down the road. The Nunavut Department of Justice which will be, in many ways, a portion of our current Department of Justice does have Inuit employment plans in the books. As the Minister of Finance and the Premier have indicated many times, the Ministers and the deputy ministers are now responsible for the aboriginal employee's component or the affirmative action component of their hiring process.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am familiar of course, with the Inuit employment plans of the government. It is good to have a plan, but if the plan is not being acted on, that would be the concern. At this time, are we going to have Justice over the next couple of days? Could the department furnish to me, in actuality, a breakdown on those numbers, give me the total number of employees at the BCC? How

many actual numbers of those people working are actually in the correction side of things like wardens, et cetera? As I understand, indeed, there are a lot working there, but the majority of them are in other menial positions. There are not that many in corrections as wardens, assistant wardens and so on. If I had that information, then maybe we could ask some more questions and get some type of commitment from the Minister and the staff.

I just have a couple of more questions on the personnel area. Following up on my earlier question, with what happened with the psychologist. That was just one incident, but there are other concerns from the BCC staff, where you do not have a staffing person there. I understand there have been some problems of appeals on positions and because there is no staffing or labour officer at BCC, those problems have come forward. Even though the Minister had earlier stated that personnel staffing functions for corrections or for Justice is based in Yellowknife, would you look at putting a person there who would be dedicated for that role. Then, indeed that person could take on to implement the Inuit employment action plan that you have in place and could also be there for the other problems that we talked about, the staffing appeals, labour relations and so on because that has been an ongoing concern. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Arlooktoo.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will be prepared to provide to the House for the Clerk a breakdown of the statistics of our affirmative action employees in all of the facilities which spell out in detail the number of indigenous aboriginal employees, women in management, disabled and others who are under the affirmative action policy. We would be pleased to give that to the House, perhaps by tomorrow.

On the personnel staffing person at the Baffin Correctional Centre or any other centre, as I had told the House a couple

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times today, the Department of Justice is as cash strapped or in some cases more so than any other department. That is the reason why we were able to justify and be approved of the rebasing which I am sure the department appreciates. It still falls short of

what we know is needed in there. If we were to make the decision to put a staffing-type person at BCC for example that would mean taking an equivalent amount of dollars from somewhere else. Now, that decision if made, would of course have an effect somewhere else.

The other thing that is happening at least in Nunavut is that we have division occurring in 400 days. There are plans under the Footprints 2 model for a Department of Justice with details for staffing, et cetera. Members may or may not know the person on my right, Ms. Sanders, will be the deputy minister of Justice for Nunavut.

--Applause

The GNWT is losing a good person, while Nunavut gains one. I should point out again the Interim Commissioner's office does have to be quite involved now and can consult with any of these changes in Nunavut. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the transference of a PY to BCC I do not believe would involve the office of the Interim Commissioner's authority. The mandate of this government goes to March 31, 1999. Maybe I would have an opportunity to discuss some of these matters later with the Minister and with the ADM on the BCC. I would like to follow up with some questions on the other line items within the directorate itself. Mr. Chairman, under the directorate, there are other Justice appointed committees and boards under the directorate. Does that include the Justice committees, for example, the youth justice committees? Is that under the directorate or is that under community policing?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. I am advised it is under activity community justice and corrections. I will let the Minister respond if he wishes.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would rather discuss that particular important issue when we get to that activity, but another point on the personnel issue, I think the Member would be pleased to know in the Government

of Nunavut the NIC plan calls for a stand alone personnel department to be located in this community.

--Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, my final question in the directorate concerns the labour standards board and labour standards administration. I believe there have been some changes in the Labour Standards Board and labour standards administration. I have had some problems, over the course of the past year, with constituents who have filed labour standards complaints or actually getting information. There is, I believe a toll-free number available, but I think the caseload of the Labour Standards Board staff seems to be quite high because I know that the turn around time on some of their complaints has been quite long and, in some cases, maybe some people were not satisfied with the results. I wonder if the Minister or his staff could, indeed, tell us at this time, have there been decreases in Labour Standards Board staff? Is the phone number still available? Have you looked at advertising or maybe making people more aware of the activities of the Labour Standards Board? One of the problems I had was a unilingual person who had been working for a construction company. Is there a possibility, from the Labour Standards Board, to have Inuktitut speaking people available, or do they franchise that service out somehow? How do they get through? That was the concern I had because I did have a person who was unilingual and had applied or tried to contact him and had some problem. I wonder if there is any mechanism in place at the Labour Standard Board in those areas? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Cooper.

MR. COOPER:

The Member has asked a number of questions there. The Labour Standards Board, to the best of my knowledge, or Labour Services has not been reduced. There has been a changeover in staff of the longest standing, serving, civil servant in the Northwest Territories, Eric Smith recently retired, and he has

been replaced. I think there has probably been some growing pains with the new personnel there, but there will always be individual cases that proceed a little slower than some others. We are not aware of any real difficulties in labour standards, but if there are individual cases, certainly we welcome them being brought to our attention, and we will address any difficulties that we find. I am not sure if there is another part to the question. With respect to someone who is unilingual Inuktitut speaking, I am not sure if we have someone standing by on the hotline who can converse with that person, but I am sure arrangements could be made for an interpreter to be there in the event that someone did want to talk to Labour Services.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Mr. Picco, I think your time ran out. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to suggest that we have been on this for a number of hours now and that we move to law enforcement and others areas where there are questions.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Miltenberger, are you making a suggestion to the Chair?

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Then we are not moving on?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

I would like to see what Mr. Picco has got to say toward the subject, if you do not mind. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am quite confused with the Member for Thebacha trying to influence decisions of the committee. If Members have questions, they should be allowed to ask questions and

concerns. That is what I would like to do, Mr. Miltenberger. If you have a question to ask, I would defer it to the Member. If he has no questions, I would like to continue with a couple on the Labour Standards Board, if that would be permitted. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. For the benefit of the Members, I believe yesterday it was pointed out the Chair has discretion. I am trying to use a little discretion here, and I presume the Members will use a little discretion when they take time to ask questions. I recognize Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to follow up on the labour standards question I had earlier, indeed I knew Mr. Smith and had some dealings with him before when I was involved with the union, and he is a very good employee. I have not seen anything in writing on the complaints about slowness. It was just a couple of people who had told me they had problems contacting the office. That was the point I was trying to make. On the language services that are available that was a complaint that was raised by a person who had a labour standards problem, was unilingual and did not know how to make contact. Just for clarification purposes from the Justice staff, how would that work? Would the person just phone and have someone, who spoke English, communicate that and then the department would just phone them back? Is that what the staff meant? Then they would be able to communicate the concern, because I can phone that person and have them do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Minister.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will check with the Labour Standards Board, but I would expect that if the client was unilingual and had not already found another person to help them communicate with the Labour Standards Board or dealing with this organization, that the labour standards people would find a way of getting services to make sure they can communicate with that client. That is just my opinion. That is what I would expect to happen.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Directorate, total operations and maintenance, \$3.801 million. Mr. Henry and Mr. Enuaraq. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had some questions under lawyer support services, but I think some of them would be more appropriate under labour standards as they deal directly with that. So with your permission, I will proceed with that. Mr. Chairman, some time ago, I had approached a previous Minister of Justice with concerns that had been brought to me regarding the Labour Standards Act and the difficulty that some employers find with that act, particularly to the question of commission employees. Could I have the Minister give me some update as to the difficulties that the department could encounter to add amendments to this act to allow for commission employees? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Minister.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First, I appreciate the fact that the Member has brought this issue up with me several times in the past little while. I also understand he has pursued the issue with the previous Minister of Justice. I understand there was a commitment from the Department of Justice that the department would look at whether it was possible to make minor or isolated changes to the Labour Standards Act without having to do a major overhaul. I understand that review or overview has been done. It has been determined that small isolated changes for this particular purpose would not be possible. If there were to be changes to the Labour Standards Act for those reasons, it will require some major and wide sweeping changes, much more work than had been previously thought.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Minister for that explanation. I guess we have been speaking to different lawyers, but then if you ask three lawyers, you will get four opinions. Mr. Speaker, I have had some discussions with the legal fraternity. I get the understanding from them that to provide an inclusion

for commissioned employees to provide a clause for commission employees within the act, would require a definition and a few sections. There was also offered to me a suggestion that it would involve a couple of months work of research and preparation. Mr. Chairman, as these particular requirements affect so many people in the Northwest Territories like store clerks, anyone that is on a commission basis, hairdressers, cab drivers, anyone employed on a commission basis, it affects them. We hear so much about this government suggesting that they are open for business and we have regulatory reform in place, to make things much more easy for business. What I am trying to get is some commitment from the department that they will look at bringing in some of these needed amendments to the Labour Standards Act. I am willing, Mr. Speaker, to hear a response from the Minister on some reconsideration of this because it does affect so many people, business and labour. I would be prepared to listen to what the Minister says, but I feel strongly this should be enacted on within this life of this government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Arlooktoo.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I had told the Member earlier on when he first brought this up to me that if it was possible, to make those minor adjustments, then, I would be interested in looking at it and trying to do it. Perhaps his people have found a way my people have not found. We can sit down and look at it. I would be prepared to sit down and look at the options further.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the Minister's offer and I, sincerely, will take him up on that. It would be good to have another opinion on it. In view of that, Mr. Chairman, I would be prepared to move a motion, so we can get it on the record. I would have some people work along with the Minister's staff to have another look at this to see if something can be done to bring this act into the twentieth century and also to conform with every other jurisdiction in the

country. Mr. Chairman, I would be prepared to move a motion

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now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Henry, have you kept your motion drafted?

MR. HENRY:

Mr. Chairman, the motion would be pretty close to being drafted. I have the gist of the motion here, but it is being prepared presently.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Mr. Henry, rather than taking a break, I could possibly entertain your motion after I have recognized Mr. Enuaraq. It would give you an opportunity to draft your motion with the staff and have it translated while we are dealing with other Members. I will recognize you before we get off the activity. Is that all right?

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would be a good use of time. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Mr. Enuaraq.

MR. ENUARAQ:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under page 7-6, we have been under this directorate for quite a long time, pretty well all day. I would like to move on to page 7-7. I am not sure as to what the issues are. We are unable to vote because we do not have a quorum here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (Translation ends)

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Enuaraq. Is there anyone else want to speak? Total operations and maintenance, \$3.801 million? I have a motion on the floor, for consideration, if no one else wishes to speak to this particular activity. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Yes, Mr. Chairman. I was going to suggest we defer this area until Mr. Henry has time to bring forward his motion and has it translated.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Mr. Erasmus, do you wish to put a motion on the floor?

MR. ERASMUS:

Mr. Chairman, I am not sure if it is easier to defer or just to have a break?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

I have for the Members, I have a motion from Mr. Henry, but I do not have it verbally, but I have indication from him, he is drafting the motion. Therefore, I would suggest we take a 5-minute break and give him opportunity to do it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--Break.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

I would like to call the committee back to order. In regard to the motion, Mr. Henry, that you want to put forward, I have been advised you would have opportunity to put it forward under activity summary, the lawyer support services. Would you hold your motion, until that time? The Chair would then recognize you at that time, for putting forward your motion. Is that agreeable, Mr. Henry?

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I appreciate that. That will be fine. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. I am on directorate, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$3.801 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Mr. Krutko, I will recognize you under the condition that we are not going to be discussing something we have already discussed before. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the appointment of judges, especially Territorial Supreme Court, there was an outcry in regard to Ottawa, where they were looking at an appointment to the Federal Supreme Court. At that time there was a question about trying to identify an aboriginal person to be appointed to the court, based on the whole idea of the cultural makeup of the different communities, especially in the territories where you have a large aboriginal population. Have you looked at the possibility of trying to identify if an appointment comes open, to consider an aboriginal person be appointed to the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Minister.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Although I understand the concept and may agree with the idea that we need more aboriginal representation in this field of justice, the Supreme Court judges for the Northwest Territories are appointed by the federal government and not by us. As I understand it, in order to be a Supreme Court judge, you need ten years of experience as a lawyer. That is one area that we severely lack in the north, the aboriginal lawyers with that many years of experience.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well there are a few aboriginal lawyers I know of, naming them offhand, Rick Hardy and Jack Williams and a few other people that may know of other ones but who are presently practicing law in the Northwest Territories, on the basis of ten years, I understand but does this government have any involvement in recommending to the federal Department of Justice, who they may want to recommend to be on the Supreme Court? On the notion that there are no aboriginal people who can fill that seat, I believe there is.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Minister.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As in several other areas where the federal government makes appointments, they do from time to time ask the GNWT for suggestions and we would give them a suggestion or we could also lobby the federal government in trying to ensure one of these suitable people be considered. Just in addition to that, I am scheduled to meet the federal justice Minister on Monday, I believe. Although this would not be the purpose of the meeting, this could certainly be one thing I might bring up as an

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issue.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the Minister for considering bringing this up with the federal Minister. At the present time, are there no vacancies on the NWT Supreme Court or are we contemplating anyone resigning or stepping down or moving onto greener pastures?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Minister.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I personally do not know the answer to that, I would ask the deputy minister to provide the answer.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. Mr. Cooper.

MR. COOPER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a vacancy on the Supreme Court at the present time but it has been agreed by the judiciary, the federal and territorial governments that the next appointment would be in Nunavut on the understanding that the next Supreme Court judge appointed in Nunavut would become a judge of the Nunavut Supreme Court, upon division. We are hopeful at least one Supreme Court justice

will be appointed within the next four to six months, to take up residence in Nunavut.

In the west judges, of course, because of judicial independence, cannot be laid off and cannot be moved. We will retain three Supreme Court judges in the west, who will be based here in Yellowknife. I do not anticipate there will be any vacancies on the Supreme Court in the west for some time to come. One other thing concerning the appointment process, that is worth noting, is that all individuals interested in a Supreme Court appointment, do submit their names to a judicial appointments advisory committee. That advisory committee recommends certain names to the Minister of Justice, as qualified or in some cases, very few, but in some cases, unqualified. That also is a step in the process.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Cooper. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to justice appointments to committees and boards, what committees and boards are you talking about? What appointments are you talking about to those committees and boards?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Minister. Mr. Cooper.

MR. COOPER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For many years in this country, the public has demanded more input into the judicial appointment process. The federal government's response, some seven or eight years ago, was to create in every jurisdiction a judicial appointments advisory committee, composed largely of lay people who would review the resumes, I suppose, of lawyers interested in being appointed to the Supreme Court, in a given jurisdiction and would then, I suppose rate those expressions of interest or the individuals as either being qualified or unqualified. That is just a step in the appointment process. Now I understand the judicial appointments advisory committee for the Northwest Territories has met and gone over all applications on file, if I can call them that, and has made recommendations to the Minister of Justice. I do not know what those might be but I do know that part of the process has been done.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Mr. Krutko. For clarification, Mr. Cooper, Minister of Justice, federal or territorial?

MR. COOPER:

I am sorry, Mr. Chairman, that would be to the federal Minister of Justice.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Cooper. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples report there were recommendations on justice matters in relation to aboriginal people and how they have been dealt with. Have you looked at the recommendations as to how it can be implemented in the north in forming aboriginal committees, in relation to justice issues and such as that? Have you looked at the recommendations from the Royal Commission on justice matters and how they can be implemented in the Northwest Territories?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Minister.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Here again is a situation where the Department of Justice does have some involvement in looking at the RCAP report and also looking at the federal response to the RCAP report and putting together the GNWT's view. The Department of Justice does not have a lead role in that. The Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, once again, has the lead role in providing a response to the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples report.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Directorate, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$3.801 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Page 7-7, activity summary, law enforcement. Mr. Enuaraq.

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a committee motion under activity summary, law enforcement, page 7-7.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

I am sorry, Mr. Enuaraq, I missed that.

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a committee motion under activity summary, law enforcement, page 7-7.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Enuaraq. Your motion, Mr. Enuaraq.

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Committee Motion 16-13(5): Recommendation to Formulate a Strategic Plan for Policing in the Western Territory and Nunavut

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee recommends that the department formulate, in concert with the RCMP and the Interim Commissioner's office, a strategic plan for policing in the Western Territory and Nunavut. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Enuaraq. Your motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Law enforcement, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$28.015 million. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to the First Nations Community Policing Program, a lot of reserves down south have their own police enforcement. For a lot of the communities where the RCMP does not have enough manpower to do an adequate job, a lot of times, the municipalities want to take on more responsibilities, especially with regard to using by-law officers, et cetera. They are restricted in the type of power that they have. A lot of aboriginal groups are considering looking at the whole area of policing and enforcement, especially when it comes to controlling items in communities such as prohibition and enforcing different by-laws where the RCMP does

not have the manpower. They would like to have someone who can take on these responsibilities and eventually look at the whole area of having their own police force within aboriginal communities.

I would like to ask the Minister, in light of the federal government, since this is a cost-sharing arrangement, the possibility of meeting with aboriginal groups and organizations to see how they can play a more active role with regard to aboriginal policing in the Northwest Territories? There were only two communities identified. There are a lot of other communities that would like to have the opportunity to consider having their own policing. Could the Minister tell me exactly what is being done to enhance this program, so it can help more communities than just the two that were used as pilot projects?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Minister.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A couple points. First, I have arranged for the RCMP staff superintendent and the commanding officer to meet with all MLAs tomorrow. This is one area that would be useful for them to discuss, the whole area of recruitment and increasing the number of aboriginal police officers, or police officers of aboriginal descent. The numbers I do see coming from the RCMP as far as recruitment goes, are not bad, actually. Although it is never enough, I am informed that since last April, the RCMP "G" Division has recruited 34 aboriginal people including 13 women and 15 men who are currently in the Aboriginal Cadet Development Program. Two aboriginal men and one aboriginal woman, all of Dene ancestry are currently in training at the RCMP Academy. I wanted to point out that there is activity in that area and efforts by the RCMP to try and deal with the shortage of aboriginal representation in the police force. This has moved forward and I do understand the concern that we have a way to go.

In terms of aboriginal police forces, this is one area which is not my speciality. I would have to find out more about that. If there are groups who are interested in actively pursuing this, who have proposals or plans, I would say, in general, that the Government of the NWT is always interested in listening to what those proposals are and what we can do to assist. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Regarding the pilot project that took place in Fort Good Hope, Coral Harbour, places like Tsiigehtchic, the community I represent; they do not have RCMP or nurses located in the community. They do want to have someone located in their communities, but they are always told they do not have the resources or the avenues to get these funds. This project could be one way that the charter community of Tsiigehtchic can look at possibly identifying someone within their community to train as a community constable who can work with the RCMP in Fort McPherson or Inuvik and allow someone to be trained in the community to take on a similar arrangement like a pilot project that was in Fort Good Hope. What are the chances of something like this happening in the community of Tsiigehtchic where they do not have a police officer at the present time?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The information provided to us by the RCMP indicates that out of 32 communities this program is eligible for 22 have signed memorandums of understanding with the RCMP for the Community Constable Program. Although, I did indicate earlier, this is somewhat different from the pilot project for Fort Good Hope and Coral Harbour. However, 22 out of 32 communities have signed the MOUs, including, as I understand it, Tsiigehtchic. The other community that the Member referred to, Fort McPherson, according to the latest information we have from the RCMP, said they were not interested at the time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Mr. Arlooktoo. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Did you mention that out of the 22 groups that were consulted, Tsiigehtchic asked for such a program?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Minister.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They are included in the 22 out of 32 communities that have completed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the RCMP for the Community Constable Program.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you. Will those 22 groups be recognized as a pilot project that was just concluded in Fort Good Hope? Is that the scenario they are going to use? Will they do it under that particular project with regard to the First Nations Community Policing Program? Will those 22 communities who have signed an MOU, will that be a similar pilot project arrangement as was done in Fort Good Hope and Coral

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Harbour?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Arlooktoo.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First, on the earlier question, the community policing coordinator, Mr. Gunther Lobby, will be going to Tsiigehtchic in the next few days, as it happens, to deal with this issue. We are working with the RCMP in the community.

On the Community Constable Program versus the pilot project, I did say the Community Constable Program is seen to be a viable option that works for many, if not most, communities. It is somewhat different from the three-year pilot project that occurred in the two communities. There are no plans to extend the pilot project to any other community, but we do have instead, the Community Constable Program.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. Law enforcement, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$28.015 million. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Regarding the community policing, out of the 22 communities that have been identified, how many of

them do not have police officers located there at the present time?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Minister.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is a specific number that we could find out. There are a small number of communities that do not have regular RCMP members but do have somebody trained under the Community Constable Program.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

May I ask another question? Are the majority of the people who have signed for an MOU, communities without policing?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Arlooktoo.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The opposite is true. The majority of the communities that have signed MOUs, the vast majority have regular RCMP officers. This is seen as something that compliments the law enforcement capability or the community policing aspect.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

I thought communities would be asking for policing such as the community I represent, Tsiigehtchic, who have been asking for police or a nurse to be located in their community but nothing has been done. I see an opportunity to allow those types of communities who do not have policing in their communities. This program will probably be beneficial for those communities that do not have that opportunity at the present time. In light of that, I think it is crucial this avenue be taken to assist those communities where no police are located. The comment from the Minister, where he said it was the opposite, I do not see how they can assist communities where you may not need

a full-time police officer in regard to the amount of funds we pay to have the RCMP deal with law enforcement in the territories, but allow the communities some mechanism to have policing. I would like to ask the Minister again, of these communities, the majority of those communities who do not have policing, what is the ability of those communities to use this as one of the mechanisms they can, to have policing they have been asking for?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to add one thing I had not said when we talked about the Community Constable By-law Program, is that the Department of MACA is intimately involved and is one of the partners of this successful program. This, as the Member says, can be seen as a way of helping the communities that do not have regular RCMP members. I did say there were a few of them. We can provide a list to the Members by tomorrow of where those communities are. We can help them get policing personnel increase in a sense, in that community. What you basically have is a program that provides training to individuals, perhaps by-law enforcement individuals in the community who are sent down on a four-week training course to the RCMP Academy in Regina, where they are taught things like basic law, self-defence, firearms and community policing. Initiates are then sent back to the community with enhanced training and a wider view of the world. In that sense that is what it does, it helps that community which does not have an RCMP officer and it also helps the communities enhance that portion, even though they might have RCMP officers.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Law enforcement. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to move a motion, but maybe I will allow the other Members if they want to speak on this issue before I come forward with my motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I have Mr. Steen on the list on law enforcement. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, some of my communities are the ones which they are concerned about the lack of police services. One of the questions that comes up is, is there a formula in place whereby it is the ratio of police officers versus population of the community?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to point out, first of all, that our community policing coordinator, Mr. Gunther Lobby, who I had indicated would be in Tsiigehtchic in the next few days, will be in Tuktoyaktuk tomorrow working with the community on the Community Constable Program. Whether there is a formula for having RCMP in the community based on their population, I do not think so. Some of the communities that have or do not have RCMP constables have them because of historical reasons, this is why the RCMP has been there for a long time or have not been there. Some could be there for other reasons such as crime rates, et cetera.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, could the Minister indicate then, who would then decide the number of police required for this territory? Would it be this government that indicates the number of police force that we require? There is a contract between this government and the RCMP. Would we be the ones indicating what number of police officers we need or is that done by the feds?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The policing contract is paid to the RCMP in a split between the federal government and ourselves, 70/30. I believe, 70 for us and 30 percent that the federal government pays. The RCMP puts its plan together on where the RCMP should be and deals with its staff internally. The GNWT, generally, does not have involvement in that area. I am told that if we were to have involvement, if

we were to suggest to the RCMP to put an RCMP member in a particular area, it would most likely mean additional expenses the GNWT would have to pay for.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If this government indicated that it wished the RCMP in certain communities and in certain numbers, the RCMP would oblige, but we would have to pay for it? Is that correct?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Arlooktoo.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If they obliged, then, we would have to pay for at least 70 per cent of it. I have to clarify that we are barely in the position to make that type of request. As Mr. Grimmer, of the RCMP will likely explain tomorrow, the RCMP also has very tight budgets, and in fact, they are dealing with some very difficult constraints which they are, rather than thinking of expanding out and adding numbers, they are in a position of thinking about where to reduce. I think that should be clarified tomorrow.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the information on the briefing tomorrow, but that does not bring the information out to the public very well. My concern is, the people in the small communities do not understand why they do not qualify for RCMP presence. As an example, in the past, RCMP officers have stated more than once that they would prefer not to be the only officer in the communities. They would like support. In other words, they work better with two police officers rather than one. This was a concern as far as finding RCMP officers to stay in small communities because of the pressure on the RCMP officer. I recognize that. However, the communities are now asking how can this government expect a by-law officer to do the same job as a police officer, that the police would not do alone, but they expect the by-law officer to do it now, for less money? This is part of

the concern I have right now. How are we going to address that situation? In Sachs Harbour, for instance, I have been advised that after the police officer was removed, and they did sign an MOU with the department, all they received was \$3,000 toward the cost of supplying police services. Obviously, the question was where can you find someone who is willing to get shot at for \$3,000? That was basically the way it was put to me. You cannot expect the small communities to supply the services that a fully-fledged RCMP would not supply on his own. They wanted backup services and nobody can blame them. That is my concern right now. How are we going to address bringing back safe police services like we said we were going to? Vision of safe and secure communities, supported and protected by an accessible, responsive and effective justice system. That is my concern right now. The people in the community are realizing that it is not that easy to supply police services, and they are requesting full RCMP services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you. Mr. Chairman, there are some points there. The first one about why the RCMP have suggested that a one person detachment is not the greatest idea, as I understand it, the reason for that is a safety issue and has to do with minimum standards, in today's standards, that you would expect a police force to have if they were to be in a particular area. There are things like call-out time and the amount of time that one particular staff might be on call. It is important to point out that the Community Constable By-law Program does not give you a full-time, full-service police officer. What you get with this program, in most cases, is a by-law officer who is better trained, who now has been training in things like law, self-defence, firearms and community policing, who is now appointed as a peace officer and has the power of arrest, where otherwise there would not have been a person in that position if this program was not there. In most cases, rather than setting a full-service police officer, what you are doing is enhancing safety and security in the communities. That is the main idea because of the fact that we cannot afford all these extra officers in the different communities.

On the costing issue, I would have to check on that but I would imagine that in most cases the extra funding is for the training and for the extra time that a

by-law officer who is already working in and budgeted for by a hamlet, it is to top up the money that is already there.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. It is almost 6:00 p.m. We are dealing with law enforcement. I am inclined to recognize the clock at this time. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I will recognize the clock. I thank the Minister. 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, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 8, Appropriation Act, 1998-99 and Committee Report 05-13(5) and would like to report progress with one motion being adopted. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with.

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Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Seconded by Mr. Evaloarjuk. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed. The motion is carried. Item 21, third reading of bills. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to return to item 13, tabling of documents.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Yellowknife North is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 13, tabling of

documents. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Erasmus, you have unanimous consent.

REVERT TO ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Tabled Document 51-13(5): Package of Three Letters from Alice Legat Re: Termination of NWT Ski Coach

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. I wish to table a package of letters I have received from Yellowknife Ski Club member, Alice Legat, which expresses her concerns regarding the recent termination of the NWT Ski Club. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Tabling of documents. Item 22, orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, there are meetings for tomorrow morning, at 9:00 a.m., of the Standing Committee on Government Operations, at 11:00 a.m., of the Ordinary Members' Caucus and at 11:45 a.m., a lunch briefing with the RCMP.

Orders of the day for Thursday, February 19, 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 12, Write-Off of Debts Acts, 1997-98
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
 - Bill 11, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1997-98
 - 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, on the 1998-99 Main Estimates
 - Committee Report 05-13(5), Standing Committee on Social Programs, Report on the 1998-99 Estimates
 - Tabled Document 15-13(5), 1998-99 Budget Address
 - Tabled Document 19-13(5), Guidelines for Implementing Public/Private Partnerships
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. This House stands adjourned until Thursday, February 19, 1998, at 1:30 p.m.

--ADJOURNMENT