



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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**HANSARD**

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The Honourable **Samuel Gargan**, Speaker

MEMBERS PRESENT

Honourable Goo Arlooktoo, Mr. Barnabas, Honourable Charles Dent, Mr. Enuaraq, Mr. Erasmus, Mr. Evaloarjuk, Honourable Sam Gargan, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Henry, Honourable Stephen Kakfwi, Mr. Miltenberger, Honourable Don Morin, Honourable Kelvin Ng, Mr. Ningark, Mr. O'Brien, 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. Ningark. Good morning. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Ng.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 69-13(5): Sahtu Health Services

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there has been recently, as Members of this House are aware, a lot of confusion surrounding the issue of access to health services for residents of the Sahtu. I rise today to provide some clarity of this matter. I will explain the facts and my position.

First of all, Mr. Speaker, I will deal with the matter of the Cabinet Directive that has been the subject of some discussion in this House. Let me be very clear, matters affecting the location of service delivery are the sole responsibility of the Minister of Health and Social Services. I intend to accept that responsibility and be held accountable for it. I cannot speak to why the previous Minister, in the previous government, choose to bring the matter of health services in the Sahtu before Cabinet. That was a decision made in different times. However, I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that I will make determinations, as necessary, on the best fit for service delivery in the health and social service system. I will make those determinations on the basis of facts, on the basis of best value for money, and after appropriate consultation with the people affected. I will make

those determinations so that current and future generations of residents will have access to quality care, shared equitably and resources in a sustainable way.

I have had many conversations with the chair of the Inuvik Regional Health and Social Service Board. On February 6th, I wrote to her to confirm my position on the matter of provision of health services. All Sahtu communities and the Sahtu leadership were copied on my letter. I am, therefore, Mr. Speaker surprised that confusion remains. In that letter, I confirmed my support for the board's proposal to provide a limited element of choice to people from the Sahtu, particularly as it relates to the travel of elders who may have family in Inuvik.

I also informed the chair that there had recently been a series of complaints from the Sahtu, with people alleging that the board is, in fact, going much further than offering limited choice. I reiterated my expectations about how changes need to be advanced. I told the board that I considered the Cabinet decision of April, 1995, to be essentially in effect, except for the limited element of choice just mentioned. I suggested to the board that given the considerable change that has occurred in the health and social service system since 1995, I fully expect that the board would continue to search for ways of meeting the needs of Sahtu residents efficiently and effectively. I directed the board to precede its decisions about changes with extensive discussion with the communities served, and to follow up the consultation with a comprehensive cost/benefit analysis.

As Members know, the Department of Health and Social Services has made considerable investment in the Stanton system, and we will need to test the impact on that system of any change in the service relationship between the Inuvik and Stanton regions.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a tough two and a half years, since we came into office, faced with tough problems, less money, a population under terrific social pressure and a will to make the decisions we need to make in this day and age. We have asked board trustees to wrestle with difficult issues and make tough decisions when the full range of options available to them has not been that palatable. With all that, Mr. Speaker, we need to extend our support, guidance and appreciation for their effort and commitment.

Mr. Speaker, our boards and their volunteer trustees represent a key linkage between the caregivers that work for the board and the residents and communities they serve. I will continue to support their operations, to insist on their accountability to the residents they serve and to me as Minister. It is unfortunate that the boards often receive negative coverage of their attempts to deal with difficult situations. Yet when they are doing good thing, operating effectively and efficiently we hear very little about them.

I will ensure that we continue to strengthen the support we provide to boards, and hope that, on occasion, Members of this House will see fit to join me in celebrating their frequent successes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Ministers' statements. Mr. Morin.

Minister's Statement 70-13(5): Minister Absent From the House

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have an

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emergency statement that is not really an emergency, Mr. Speaker, it was not filed on time according to the rules of the House. My apologies to you Mr. Speaker, as well as the Members of the House. Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise Members that the Honourable James Antoine will be absent from the House today to attend a meeting on transportation and aboriginal issues with Mr. Krutko in Fort McPherson. I apologize once again to the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

Member's Statement 290-13(5): Rents Charged for Social Housing

**MR. EVALOARJUK:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in regard to the statement the Minister

responsible for the Housing Corporation made yesterday. I do appreciate the fact that he indicated that social housing rent increases will no longer be increased in the Nunavut area before division. I appreciated the fact that there will be no rent increases, however, in my riding the housing managers in the local communities received a letter stating that as of June 1, 1998, there will be a 90 percent increase of social housing rents. The Minister stated yesterday that this will stay at 60 percent and will no longer increase to 90 percent. This was going to be put in effect June, 1998. I will be asking the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation a question regarding this matter and ask him to clarify this situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Miltenberger.

Member's Statement 291-13(5): GNWT Job Evaluation System

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to make some comments today about the new job evaluation system that the government has been working on. It is a long time in the works and it is meant to address a number of outstanding issues. Of course it is going to affect the people who work for the government, our employees, who everybody said is our most important resource.

I am concerned Mr. Speaker, based on our history as an Assembly, we have yet to show that we can communicate adequately and thoroughly with our employees. I am hearing some concern and consternation from government employees about this new system. They have apparently been given their classifications, but there is no dollar value figure attached to them. There is a lot of concern that, in fact, there maybe some drop in pay and that there will be confusion between departments that some positions have not been adequately classified. It is going to be critical for this government to ensure that this new evaluation system is, in fact, implemented in such a way to minimize employee concern and make sure we communicate effectively with the staff. In question period, Mr. Speaker, I will be asking the Minister for FMBS some very specific questions on this new system to try to put some of these concerns at rest. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Roland

Member's Statement 292-13(5): Regional Health Care Standards

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to start by sending greetings back to my wife and children.

--Applause

Mr. Speaker, the issue of health care has been brought up a number of times within this forum when it comes to the quality of health care and the standards that are used by the different health boards throughout the territories. We have had some heated debate on standards and who sets them and what rules have to be followed. I would like to make mention that I believe that the Inuvik Health Board has been doing the best they can with what they have available. My concerns are the standards that are set will be followed by all health boards, and once they are set and established, they will be followed and you will not have standards set for each different region where you could have doctors and nurses not having to do the same type of work. Once it is clarified as to the direction we will be heading in, all health boards will be made to follow the same standards that are set before them. We need to clarify the roles of health boards and the roles they play right now with the communities, especially when we are coming up to division. We need to make things clear for all the residents so they understand that they can receive quality health care from any region within the territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. O'Brien. Welcome back.

Member's Statement 293-13(5): Keewatin Health Services Agreement

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad to be back in the House again. Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to hear that the acting chair of the Keewatin Regional Health Board announced that the Keewatin Regional Health

Board and the University of Manitoba reached an agreement in principle on the provision of health services in the Keewatin region. Under this interim agreement, the University of Manitoba will provide services to the Keewatin residence in the following areas; physician services, travel clinics and specialist services. Mr. Speaker, I believe this is a first step in re-establishing medical services and also trust back in the system that the people in the Keewatin were looking for, expecting and anticipating. I will have questions for the Minister later on today on this issue. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Morin.

Member's Statement 294-13(5): Fort Resolution Community Television Channel

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last night we

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had the pleasure of going down to Fort Resolution to open a new community television channel. It is a community television channel by NorthwesTel Cable and the elders' committee in Fort Resolution worked long and hard to bring this channel on stream. The chairman, Pete Fraser, as well as the volunteers in Fort Resolution who worked hard to make sure that the people of Fort Resolution have a community channel is Leon Beaulieu, Catherine Wishey, Dottie Mandeville and Faith Beaulieu. These people put in many, many hours on behalf of the community. All the good people of Fort Resolution showed up last night to welcome our honoured guests, the Honourable Kelvin Ng, the Honourable Charles Dent and our good friend Levi Barnabas from the High Arctic who came with us to enjoy a feast of caribou stew and bannock. Everybody had a great and an enjoyable time visiting with each other. It was a good evening and we had promised our Chief in Fort Resolution last night, Don Balsillie, that I would wear this in the House today, so I am wearing it right now for Fort Resolution Chief Don Balsillie and the people in Fort Resolution.

--Applause

Later on today, Mr. Speaker, myself, Charles Dent, Kelvin Ng and Levi Barnabas will have a request in to our television cameras to get a picture of all of us with our SJL sweatshirts on and send a video back to Fort

Resolution so they can play it to all the community on their new community access channel. I wish Fort Resolution the best of luck with their access channel. I know communication is important in our community and this access channel at the community level will help bring the community together. Once again, Fort Resolution has made me proud to represent them. I am very proud of what they did for my colleagues last night and keep up the good work and keep working together. Mahsi cho.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Rabesca.

Member's Statement 295-13(5): Literacy Action Day

**MR. RABESCA:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you spoke of literacy yesterday in your address, today I rise to bring forward a message on the same topic. Communication has been a part of our lives since the beginning of time. Our ancestry used many forms to communicate, in some cultures the drum is an important communicator, others used smoke and others used different forms of writing on different objects. My ancestors would communicate by writing in the snow, using charcoal to write with and many other signals and forms of writing. These are all forms of literacy. In today's world, one must know how to read and write in English to move ahead. However, we, as aboriginal people, cannot forget our history, our culture and most importantly, our language. Yesterday was Literacy Action Day across the north and I hope all our residents recognize how important literacy is for the survival of our language and our culture. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Barnabas.

Member's Statement 296-13(5): Staffing Assistance for Elders Organizations

**MR. BARNABAS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will speak in Inuktitut. (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to speak on the issue of elders' organizations. The elders' organizations do not have certain staff, such as secretaries. They do have funding and a lot of them do not have secretaries to

report how they use their funding. I feel that the elders should have this support staff to make sure that what they are doing is reported. The elders are very important to us and now that they are starting to do a lot of things, such as elders' circles in the communities and through the legal system, we would like to provide support staff for the elders in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Henry.

Member's Statement 297-13(5): Updates on Former Members of the House

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I recall, when I ran for MLA, thinking before that it probably is not that much of a stressful job. I now know better. I now read more before 10:00 in the morning than I used to read every week. There are meetings before Session, after Session, at night, on weekends. Outside groups want your time and support for their issues. Some of the longer term Members, their children grow up before their eyes and they do not even notice. My children have sometimes mentioned to me that they are thinking of calling me Uncle Seamus instead of Dad.

Politics is a stressful life, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank all those MLAs who ran before and served the people of the Northwest Territories. What happened to the Members of the 12th Assembly? Where are they now? Many of the former Members are still working hard for the people in their own home communities. Henry Zoe is the executive director for the Dogrib Treaty 11; the former Premier, Nellie Cournoyea is the chairperson and chief executive officer of the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation; Richard Nerysoo is the president of the Gwich'in Tribal Council; Dennis Patterson is the chairperson of the Baffin Regional Health Board; Fred Koe is the deputy minister of Aboriginal Affairs; and Tony Whitford is our Sergeant-at-Arms, as well as being the executive assistant to the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories.

I do not think you can say that any of these people have retired from political life. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, some of them are probably a bigger pain to

the government than they were when they sat in this House. The Members of the 12th Assembly who managed to get re-elected, have all been elevated to loftier positions of power. Their experience in working in the Assembly is a benefit and valuable. Some of the former MLAs are in private business. Michael Ballantyne runs his own consulting firm, although I have not heard of him getting any major government contracts, I am sure he is lurking in the corridors of power somewhere. John Pollard, after imparting his vast knowledge of finance to my honourable colleague, Mr. Todd from Rankin Inlet, has returned home to

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Hay River and is looking after his own business interests, instead of those of the Northwest Territories. Jeannie Marie-Jewell is in Fort Smith living a life of leisure and contemplating her next foray into public life. I have heard from unreliable sources that she is developing a penchant for biting M&Ms in half.

--Laughter

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Member for Yellowknife South is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Do I have any nays? Mr. Henry, you have unanimous consent.

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you colleagues. Brian Lewis can be seen wandering the streets of Yellowknife deep in thought, pondering retirement and ever ready to lend his voice to debate during the times of constitutional crisis.

I now know, Mr. Speaker, of the sacrifices of these former Members made on behalf of their constituents and the people of the Northwest Territories and wish to commend them and wish them well in future endeavours. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Members' statements. Mr. Kakfwi.

Member's Statement 298-13(5): Appreciation for Assistance Offered in a Time of Need

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today is Friday and I would say that I am very, very happy to see Friday. To say that I have been busy in the last while would be a bit of an understatement. Anyway, yesterday to start off, my dog went missing. That was not so bad because I figured I could deal with that later in the day, but last night when I left work and was at the other end of town to pick up my daughter, the car broke down at a very busy intersection. I did make it to the side of the road, but the real joy of the moment if there was anything to be found in it, was in the number of people who stopped and pulled over. Actually, one person got out of his car to come over and ask me if I was alright and if I needed help. It was a real joy to see that in a town as large as this, which we think is an enormous town for most of us Dene, there is still some real caring, compassion and neighbourly sentiment. I went to the gas station to call a tow truck, and I was having a little bit of difficulty there and three of the customers who came in to buy things, all came over to ask if they could help me. Eventually, a young lady came along and asked if I was having any luck getting a tow truck. I said I was working on it but not having so much success. She said, give me your phone number and tell me where you want it delivered and I will take care of it for you, I know somebody who is in the business. So that is what happened. I was given a ride, we stopped and picked up my daughter, went home and had supper. Later in the evening, I had time to get my truck going to go check on my car and sure enough, it was all taken care of as she said. It was tucked away and brought to the garage I asked to have it delivered to. I just wanted to say to all those people out there who stopped to check on me and make sure I was alright, to offer their help, I wanted to take the time today and say thank you very much. Now, I just have to find my dog. Thank you.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Ningark.

Member's Statement 299-13(5): Income Tax Filing Assistance

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will speak in Inuktitut. (Translation) Mr. Speaker, thank you. As we all know, right now, the income tax will have to be worked on in the very near future. Mr. Speaker, we all know, the ordinary people do not know how to do their income tax, especially in the smaller communities. We do not have any help to file income tax. In Yellowknife, you have H&R Block that we could use for support, but in the smaller communities, we do not have anything like this. Mr. Speaker, there are many people who need help filling out their income tax forms and every year, the income tax form changes. Even when you are able to speak the English language, the returns are very difficult to understand. We, the Inuit, are the taxpayers, especially in the north. We have to think about them because they are not able to read English. As stated, even if you are able to read, it is very difficult to understand and a lot of people do not fill out their income tax forms because it is very difficult for them. We do need help in the smaller communities. Is there any help available from the government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Enuaraq.

Member's Statement 300-13(5): Front Page Newspaper Coverage

**MR. ENUARAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too, would like to say that today is Friday and I am also very thankful. We have been pretty busy for the past five weeks. Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to be on the front page in a newspaper article this week, and I learned that by going through Internet messages on the computer. Yesterday, I started going through internet messages again, just to find out whether I still remain to be on the front page for this week. I learned that two dogs have taken away my front page in the news article and Mr. Speaker, I hope those two dogs are not Mr. Kakfwi's dogs. Thank you.

--Laughter/Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Picco.

Member's Statement 301-13(5): Economic Initiatives at the Iqaluit Airport

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**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, over the past two years, originating with the Iqaluit Trade and Promotion Office, I have been involved in trying to create some new economic activities at the Iqaluit airport. One of these initiatives included the opportunity of cold-weather testing. The idea of a cold-weather testing facility came about because of the usage of the Iqaluit airport for cold-weather testing by different major airlines. As an example, the cold-weather testing of an airbus 340, owned by Air France. That alone, Mr. Speaker, significantly dropped approximately \$750,000 into the local economy. Yesterday, Jerry Ell of the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation and I, met with the Minister of Transportation to again revisit this proposal. Mr. Speaker, hopefully over the next few months, more developments may be made public that could result in significant revenue streams and unique opportunities for new jobs, as well as international and corporate exposure for Iqaluit. Mr. Speaker, we have to look at new economic and job creation opportunities outside of government. This ongoing initiative may result in private business setting up a cold-weather testing facility in my community that may result in new opportunities for jobs and revenue streams. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Ootes.

Member's Statement 302-13(5): Yellowknife Ski Club Anniversary

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am most pleased today to rise to honour a Yellowknife institution. Back in February, 1968, several residents formed a downhill ski club at the old gravel pit at Jackfish Lake. At the time, there were only 5,000 residents in our capital, Yellowknife. A few people like Ruth and Bob Spence, followed organizer, Yetman Ben-Dixon on the downhill slopes. Downhilling at Jackfish remained popular for a couple of years, but eventually the city got worried that the land under the gravel pit was unstable and someone would get injured. A deal was worked out with the commissioner, giving the ski club access to the land across the road by the ravine. Ben Dixon and his wife, originally from Norway, were teachers at Sir John Franklin High School. They

brought cross-country skis up for anyone willing to try them out and at \$25 for a full set of gear, it was a lot less expensive than downhill skiing. As a result, a lot of people changed over to cross-country skiing and the downhill focus of the club started to melt away. Programs for children and racing were introduced and the club continued to grow. In the past couple of years, the club has moved yet again to a permanent home on the far side of the ravine. A beautiful clubhouse has been built there and there are many kilometres of trails and hundreds of members are presently part of the club. The club has added a lot to this community over the years and its continued success is owed, as always, to the legions of volunteers who do all the work to keep the club going. I want to take a minute here, Mr. Speaker, to congratulate the ski club on its 30th anniversary this weekend and thank all the volunteers over the years who have contributed to making this anniversary possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Erasmus.

Member's Statement 303-13(5): Support for Government Stance on the Diamond Industry

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I refuse to be influenced by harsh words of others. I refuse to remain silent anymore. I rise today to applaud the government on their stance on the diamond industry.

--Applause

I applaud their insistence that valuation and sorting must occur off site and in a northern community. I applaud their stance on value-added secondary industry, that they want to work with the industry to ensure access to a constant, reliable supply of diamonds at fair market value. Mr. Speaker, it is the government's responsibility to ensure that northern residents benefit from northern resources, not just to allow people to fly in and fly out or drive in and drive out, as the case may be. Mr. Speaker, we have heard that on average, the federal government will get annual revenues of something like almost \$200 million a year, while the Government of the Northwest Territories will receive \$17 million a year. That is less than we will have to spend on infrastructure and social programs in support of the mines. Mr.

Speaker, I would rather see diamonds stay in the ground than receive less benefit than we spend on social programs caused by the mines. Yes, Mr. Speaker, I applaud this government's stance on the diamond industry. Thank you.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

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

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great honour and pleasure to introduce a fellow who served in this House and was also sitting with me for four years and two Assemblies ago. He helped me greatly to understand the rules of this House. I was very fortunate when I got elected, I had Members who served in the House for many years who were very honourable and knew how the rules and the procedures of the House worked and how to work as an MLA. I would like to recognize the honourable Ludy Pudluk from the High Arctic.

--Applause

Mr. Speaker, Ludy was a good friend of many Members of this House and he still is. Welcome to the House, Ludy.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Welcome to the Assembly. Life must be good after politics. You do look younger.

--Laughter/Applause

Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to introduce someone in the gallery. My

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oldest son, Austin, who is visiting me for the weekend from Hay River.



--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. O'Brien.

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a good friend of mine and a better friend to Mr. Todd, Mr. Glenn McLean, the president of the Keewatin Chamber of Commerce. Thank you.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to recognize Pat Thomas. She has just recently been acclaimed to another term as the president of the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association and I know Mr. Todd will be glad to hear that.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Ningark.

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize my senior, my teacher and my friend, Mr. Ludy Pudluk.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**MR. EVALOARJUK:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize the individual who used to be a Member of the Legislative Assembly with me for nine years. I am happy he is in the gallery today. I would like to recognize, Mr. Pudluk. Thank you. (Translation ends)

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Barnabas.

**MR. BARNABAS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize my predecessor, my colleague and resident of Resolute. He is also with the NHURD Board. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I too, would like to recognize Ludy Pudluk. I used to sit beside him when I was first elected. He taught me a great deal when I was coming in as a new Member. The one thing I remember the most, I use to always rub his leg accidentally when I was throwing my garbage because I did not have a garbage can and things have never been the same since he has not been there and I have not been rubbing his leg. Thank you.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 387-13(5): Assistance in Filing Tax Returns

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Premier of this government. As I stated in my Member's statement, there are times every year in the small remote communities, people require the assistance of a person who is able to do an income tax return during the time of travelling. Will the Premier of this government assure the people in the remote communities, this government will provide that assistance to ensure people fill out their income tax returns? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Premier.

Return To Question 387-13(5): Assistance in Filing Tax Returns

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our government is committed to working with the Government of Canada and the people of the Northwest Territories to make sure the income tax forms are done. I was just reading a document the other day about Revenue Canada. They have increased their presence in the north to assist people. Also, we are on record of having asked Revenue Canada to have the forms translated into Inuktitut as well, but they have refused to do so. We are working with the people of the north to try to make sure people know how to fill out their income tax. I understand Revenue Canada will be putting on workshops as well in some communities. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ningark.

Supplementary To Question 387-13(5): Assistance in Filing Tax Returns

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, not every person in the jurisdiction is able to read, write and figure out the mathematics when filling out the income tax return. Will the Minister assure this House and the people in the remote communities that the assistance by the GNWT will be there in small communities when it is required? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 387-13(5): Assistance in Filing Tax Returns

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The whole responsibility for federal income tax lies with the federal

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government. We have attempted to bring the two parties together, the small communities and the federal government to assist the people in the small

communities to fill out their income tax. I cannot commit this government to take on the responsibility that is solely a federal government responsibility. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ningark.

Supplementary To Question 387-13(5): Assistance in Filing Tax Returns

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the Premier knows, we do not have a presence of a federal person in every community. The Premier, as the Premier of this government, should at least try to help those people who are not able to fill out their income tax return in a timely manner. Will the Minister assure this House that he will do everything he can to ensure that people who need assistance are helped? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 387-13(5): Assistance in Filing Tax Returns

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are committed to working with the people in the communities to work with the federal government to make sure they understand the unique conditions of the Northwest Territories and the unique conditions of all our remote communities and the people who live there. We do have people who do not read or write in our communities, so they do have a problem filling out income tax. We will make sure we communicate that to the federal government again. We will continue to work with the federal government to try to find a solution that is positive to the people of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Evaloarjuk.

Question 388-13(5): Confirmation of rent Scale Moratorium

**MR. EVALOARJUK:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to NWT Housing Corporation. The Minister stated yesterday in a Minister's statement that the social housing rents will not be increased before April 1999. Some of my constituents have been notified through a letter and verbally which states that sometime in June of this summer, social housing rental increases will be in effect up to 90 percent. At the present time, they are paying at a ceiling of 60 percent. I just want to find out from the Minister, I believe what he said in his Minister's statement yesterday. Will my constituents be notified that their rental increases will not be increased? Thank you. (Translation ends)

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 388-13(5): Confirmation of rent Scale Moratorium

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last year, we made a statement that we would like to put a moratorium on the rental increases for social housing in the communities. We had to make a plan for 1998. The increase would have been effective in June, but yesterday I made a statement that rental increases that were to be in effect in June will not be in effect. The letter that was given to the communities is no longer in effect because there will no longer be an increase. Thank you. (Translation ends)

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 389-13(5): Details of New Job Evaluation System

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is addressed to the Minister of FMBS. It is in regard to the new job evaluation and classification system. Could the Minister indicate whether, in fact, this new classification system will result in employees possibly being reclassified and losing pay? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 389-13(5): Details of New Job Evaluation System

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have budgeted, based on the Hay and Associates job evaluation, an additional \$9 million, to compensate female employees who were not in a pay equity situation in previous years. There is a great deal of employees who will be getting more money, not less money. Maybe some jobs are declassified and if they are, the existing people within these jobs, will be what we call, red circled. They will lose no money. Mr. Speaker, I am fairly confident today, more people will get more money and there will be some people who will remain the same as they are. Nobody will get less money.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 389-13(5): Details of New Job Evaluation System

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is gratifying to hear, I am sure, to all the concerned employees. One of the issues that I raised in my Member's statement was, in fact, the need to effectively communicate the intent of this new system to allay fears and try to counter some of the concerns and apprehensions that have been occurring in the last two and a half years with the deficit reduction and the fact that we have not really been as effective in communicating with our staff as we could be. Could the Minister indicate how he intends to address that issue so we do not create any problems for us because of lack of information and communication? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 389-13(5): Details of New Job Evaluation System

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**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are going to communicate on an individual basis with each

employee. We have tried to communicate on a territorial-wide basis with respect to the pay equity issue and the fact we have allocated \$9 million of new money to be added to the pay scale of most of our female employees. It will be done on an individual basis, Mr. Speaker, and I am fairly confident each member of the bureaucracy will fully understand the implications. Again, I want to repeat, anybody who is reclassified down will be what we define as red circled. That means a distinct pay level will stay. Should they leave and we recruit again, it would be recruited again at the reduced pay level. In fact, nobody who is currently in the government will get a reduction in salary because they will either be red circled or be increased, given that we have allocated \$9 million which we hope the union and ourselves can come to an agreement with, prior to April 1, 1998. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 389-13(5): Details of New Job Evaluation System

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in fact, as I indicated in my Member's statement, employees were given the classification of their position, but there was, from what I understand, no accompanying clarification as to what that meant in dollar terms, the fact that red circling would occur, how it would occur, whether they would be going up or down. I would suggest that you have made the first step but there seems to be a gap already, and I am not sure if I am the only Member hearing concerns raised by employees. Could the Minister indicate, given the fact that they have already started this process, how they can ensure the information is out there to prevent any further concern or apprehension? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 389-13(5): Details of New Job Evaluation System

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Let me say clearly to our employees who are out there doing their best and working very hard. Nobody will have their salary reduced as it currently stands.

Most will get increases, particularly in the female gender.

--Applause

Everybody else will be red circled. I will attempt to clarify as well as I can, what that means to each individual employee. I will check that with Mr. Voytilla, my deputy minister, and see how quickly we can do that. Again, I stress, of course, that in the \$9 million we have to come to an agreement with the union on pay equity so we can pay this money to our employees. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 389-13(5): Details of New Job Evaluation System

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister indicate, as well at this time, has the union agreed with this new system, I am assuming they have been a full partner at the table or is that still yet to be done? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 389-13(5): Details of New Job Evaluation System

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

We are still in negotiations, Mr. Speaker, with respect to the collective agreement et cetera. There is still some difference of opinion between ourselves and UNW as it relates to the job evaluation system and the compensation both on the retroactive side and the ongoing side. That is as much as I would be prepared to say at this time because there are sensitive negotiations underway. Hopefully, we can get them concluded and we can put some cash in the hands of our employees, conclude a collective agreement that will give people more money, not less and get on with doing the job of government. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Roland.

Question 390-13(5): Complaints Re: Quality of Inuvik Health Care

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question at this time would be directed to the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services. Mr. Speaker, much discussion on the quality of health care in the NWT has taken place over the last number of weeks and months. Also, within this discussion, the quality of health care at the hospital within Inuvik has been brought into question. As I brought up earlier with the ever changing programs we have been dealing with, with the Med-Emerg report and with the amalgamation of Health and Social Services, I would like to know if the Minister has received any official or formal complaints to do with the quality of health care provided in Inuvik? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 390-13(5): Complaints Re: Quality of Inuvik Health Care

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Not that I am aware of. In fact, contrary to that, there are many times the quality of the health and social services boards operations are mentioned versus complaints, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 390-13(5): Complaints Re: Quality of Inuvik Health Care

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Within the quality of health care, indeed, our facilities need to receive accreditation. When was the accreditation for the Inuvik hospital last done, by which firm and what were the results? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Ng.

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Further Return To Question 390-13(5): Complaints Re: Quality of Inuvik Health Care

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Inuvik regional health and social services board received a three-year accreditation and that was received from the Canadian Council on Health Facilities accreditation. That happened in February, 1997, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 390-13(5): Complaints Re: Quality of Inuvik Health Care

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister inform us, were there any problems with this accreditation for the Inuvik hospital?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 390-13(5): Complaints Re: Quality of Inuvik Health Care

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the only issue I believe came out of it was they asked for a review of the strategic directions be undertaken by the Inuvik Regional Health and Social Services Board before the end of January, 1998. The board managed to do that before the end of 1997. In addition to that, I understand the board has also implemented a continuous quality improvement program they expect to put in place this year. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Ootes.

Question 391-13(5): Status of Vacant Positions in RWED

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for Mr. Kakfwi, the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. It is in regard to positions within the department. Several months ago there were still a number of vacant positions. The Minister at that time was addressing the issue. Can he update

us on what the status of vacant positions in the department is at the moment? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 391-13(5): Status of Vacant Positions in RWED

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Within the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development there are a little over 500 positions. At the present time, of the full-time positions within the department, about ten percent of those positions are vacant. The vacancy rate is at that level. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 391-13(5): Status of Vacant Positions in RWED

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That has been ongoing for some time now. Could the Minister tell us what efforts are being initiated to fill these vacant positions? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 391-13(5): Status of Vacant Positions in RWED

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, there are 46 full-time positions vacant at this time. Some of these are being advertised and filled at this time. I cannot give the specifics but there is always a turnover, people transferring, promotions being made, so the vacancy rate is probably around the point where a department this size, it would always be about that level. We are trying to fill some of those positions as best we can. We have for instance, four vacancies in the Baffin, five in the Beaufort Delta, about three in the Deh Cho; in forest management there are five positions that need to be filled. We do have quite a bit of work to do in the oil and gas sector. Out of the Yellowknife positions, there

are four that need to be filled in the policy and legislation division. We have three, again all Yellowknife, and the community economic development services again in Yellowknife, four. There are 12 positions that need to be filled in those areas, an additional three in fish and wildlife. A good number of these are in the headquarters level. There are about 15 that are vacant positions currently in Yellowknife. We are trying to fill them. In the Keewatin there are four, Kitikmeot two, in the North Slave which is the regional office here there are five full-time positions and two which need to be filled. In Iqaluit, there are five positions that need to be filled. As to what we are currently doing to each of those specific positions, I do not have the details but I would be prepared to get them and share it with the Members. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. This is a very detailed question. You would have been better served asking it as a written question. Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 391-13(5): Status of Vacant Positions in RWED

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the department no doubt, a number of people have been laid off. Could the Minister tell us if layoff packages have been offered to people within the department?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 391-13(5): Status of Vacant Positions in RWED

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker. Yes.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 391-13(5): Status of Vacant Positions in RWED

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My final question would

be earlier the Minister mentioned they always have some positions vacant, but of the number that are vacant, 48 I believe you said, are those ones that have been consistently vacant for the last year?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

If the Minister wishes to respond. It is a detailed question again and he has to make comparisons. Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 391-13(5): Status of Vacant Positions in RWED

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am here for the whole question period. I am here to answer questions.

--Laughter/Applause

I can go through each of these vacant positions. There are 46 full-time positions. I do not know how many of those are newly created positions that have not yet been filled since the amalgamation of this department. I will get that information for the Member and also provide him the information about how many are positions that have been filled which have since become vacant and what we are doing to fill them. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Erasmus.

Question 392-13(5): Accessibility of Diamonds to Northern Industry

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Premier in relation to his Minister's statement yesterday regarding the GNWT position on northern diamonds. Recently, the Minister for RWED had come back from a fact-finding mission and indicated this government should not be in the business of buying diamonds. There seems to be a perception to some people from the government's stated position yesterday that perhaps this is the case. Could the Premier elaborate on the point of making diamonds accessible, consistently and reliably to the northern industries?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 392-13(5): Accessibility of Diamonds to Northern Industry

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, we made public our position as a government. It is clear that our government is very interested in becoming involved in the diamond industry. Our government has a duty to be involved in the diamond industry, to the people of the Northwest Territories. We have to fundamentally look after the people of the Northwest Territories and people's concerns on the diamond issue. We have concerns that we are not getting a fair share of taxes and royalties. We are working with the federal government on that issue. We want access to rough diamonds so we can develop a diamond cutting and polishing industry for the Northwest Territories people. We also need to have an inroad in the marketing of diamonds, so we know what the end value is, so we get the proper taxes and royalties on behalf of the people of the Northwest Territories. That is the position of this government. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 392-13(5): Accessibility of Diamonds to Northern Industry

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the government proposing to buy diamonds or set up some type of a committee or board that would actually buy the diamonds to make them accessible to people in the north? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 392-13(5): Accessibility of Diamonds to Northern Industry

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 392-13(5): Accessibility of Diamonds to Northern Industry

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier had indicated also in his statement the government would be working with the industry to achieve this goal. Would the Premier indicate if there have already been meetings to this end?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 392-13(5): Accessibility of Diamonds to Northern Industry

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. BHP Diamonds has publicly stated that they want to make diamonds available for sale in the Northwest Territories. It is our position, as a government, that we will work with them to achieve their public commitment they made to the people of the Northwest Territories, to make diamonds for sale in the Northwest Territories. They being a good corporate citizen and we being a good government will work together to help them to achieve that. Ministers have met previously with BHP, and they will meet with them again next week. From that meeting, knowing that BHP is a good corporate citizen in the Northwest Territories, knowing that my Ministers are very committed to look after the people's interest of the Northwest Territories, I think we will come out with a positive result. If not, then Plan B. Thank you.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 392-13(5): Accessibility of Diamonds to Northern Industry

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Being the good Premier that he is, I am sure the Premier will keep us informed on the developments. Could the Premier indicate if this

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government expects the mining industry to subsidize the development of a new northern industry?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 392-13(5): Accessibility of Diamonds to Northern Industry

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, we do not expect the mining industry to subsidize the start of a new diamond polishing industry in the Northwest Territories. We just expect the mining industry, especially BHP, to live up to the public statements they have made and we will help them achieve that. It may cost them a bit of money, but it is not a subsidy. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 393-13(5): Informing Members of Progress in Diamond Developments

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will also be asking the Premier some questions on his statement in the House yesterday on northern diamonds. I would like to congratulate the Premier and his government for the position they are taking. I believe that is the bottom line anyway. I listened to a CBC report where the Premier had responded to questions from the reporter. The Premier had said his Ministers would work with the industry and government and report back to Cabinet. My question to the Minister is, when the Ministers do report back to Cabinet, will the Premier have a meeting of the full Caucus and advise them of the advancements they have made before a public statement is forthcoming? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Premier, Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 393-13(5): Informing Members of Progress in Diamond Developments

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As this process evolves and as the Ministers meet with the diamond industry people and the federal government as well, I will be very happy to keep Members informed, of what



evolves from that. If the House is not sitting, then I would do that by letter so Members are fully knowledgeable of what is happening. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 393-13(5): Informing Members of Progress in Diamond Developments

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, Premier, for that. The point I am trying to get here, Mr. Speaker is, this government will be splitting before December 31st, 1998. We will be back in this House in May. What I would like for the Premier to do is to bring this information back to the committee. The reason for asking this, there was criticism of the government during the process, a socio-economic agreement, and I think it is better if, in this particular situation, everyone had some input into it. We can make a collective decision, everybody buys into it and supports it. That is my reason for asking it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 393-13(5): Informing Members of Progress in Diamond Developments

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will write to the Caucus Chairman and ask him to add that item to the Caucus agenda so when we come back in May we can have an update then. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 393-13(5): Informing Members of Progress in Diamond Developments

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I like the Premier's positive attitude and that he is sending two of his top Ministers to negotiate with BHP and with the federal government. Hopefully, that will result in something which will benefit all northerners. My question to the

Premier is, I have not heard the comment that was made by the Finance Minister anywhere in the statement here. Is that still on the table, the potential of taxes that would choke a mule in the event that northerners do not get the resources and benefits they deserve out of this industry? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 393-13(5): Informing Members of Progress in Diamond Developments

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The most important issue here is to make sure that northerners benefit from our resources. The diamonds belong to the Northwest Territories people. That is our resource and future. We will do everything possible to ensure that northerners benefit from this diamond mine. Northerners have to benefit from this diamond mine and we, as a government, will ensure that happens. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 394-13(5): Agreement on Job Evaluation System

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to follow up on some questions on Mr. Todd's statement yesterday on pay equity. Has the UNW or any outside agencies agreed that the proposed GNWT's Hay Job Evaluation System is, indeed, gender neutral? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 394-13(5): Agreement on Job Evaluation System

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, Hay and Associates are in fact an outside organization with a significant Canadian-wide, both in government and industry-wide experience. This is probably the most

detailed job evaluation analysis that has been done in this government

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since its start. I am confident the Hay Associates job evaluation system is well-founded and is defensible, if and when we end up at the Human Rights Commission. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 394-13(5): Agreement on Job Evaluation System

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, rates of pay must be based on a bias-free job evaluation system as set out under the Canadian Human Rights guidelines. Do the rates of pay under this new proposed system meet those guidelines? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 394-13(5): Agreement on Job Evaluation System

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We believe they do. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 394-13(5): Agreement on Job Evaluation System

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, is it true then that government cannot knowingly ignore the legal obligations set out in the Canadian Human Rights Act and thus, has to negotiate a settlement because a new collective agreement with rates of pay which discriminate, would now not be legal because, indeed, of the recent ruling?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 394-13(5): Agreement on Job Evaluation System

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Excellent question, Mr. Speaker, from my colleague and if he will recall, if he looks at Hansard, I believe I said this means that the government cannot knowingly ignore the legal obligations set out in the Canadian Human Rights Act by signing a new collective agreement with rates of pay that might be discriminatory against female employees. The UNW is faced with the same dilemma.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 394-13(5): Agreement on Job Evaluation System

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the UNW has to too, but they are not implementing the Hay Plan proposal. The Minister just said he believes the Hay Plan Proposal, indeed, is gender neutral. He believes it, the government believes it, but do they have any facts to back that up other than the company that he hired to do it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 394-13(5): Agreement on Job Evaluation System

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

We are confident, Mr. Speaker, very confident, that the Hay and Associates job evaluation analysis will stand the test with the Human Rights Commission. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. O'Brien.

Question 395-13(5): Health Services Agreement in Principle

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question will be directed to the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services as a followup to the ones I made earlier today regarding the agreement in principle that was reached between the University of Manitoba, their Northern Medical Unit and the Keewatin Regional Health Board. It indicates that the agreement is in principle. Can the Minister state whether or not it has been actually signed and when the services will take place? Is there a date set to have these services reinstated in the Keewatin? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 395-13(5): Health Services Agreement in Principle

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would make the assumption that it had been signed because of the fact the agreement has been reached in principle as the press release states. I think given that, the services are in place as well on an interim basis as they continue to negotiate toward a final agreement, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 395-13(5): Health Services Agreement in Principle

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am sure, as the Minister can appreciate, what the people in the Keewatin want, certainly when it relates to their health care and this is an agreement in principle which indicates that it is not a long-term arrangement. My question to the Minister is, when does he feel that a long-term arrangement or permanent arrangement can be reached, given the fact that we have had a number of months passed since we have discussed this issue and at this point, we just have a short term arrangement. When do we expect a permanent arrangement? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 395-13(5): Health Services Agreement in Principle

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would anticipate that the negotiations and discussions are

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obviously ongoing. The important thing to recognize here, I think, is that the agreement in principle is in place until a permanent agreement can be reached between the parties. There will be work done on it. I am hopefully optimistic that within the next few weeks they can be able to resolve this issue on a more permanent nature. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 395-13(5): Health Services Agreement in Principle

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Mr. Speaker, also in discussions and some of the debate that we have had in the House over the last many months, we also spoke about the need for social services and the lack of practitioners in the Keewatin. Is there any effort being made to include an arrangement for services regarding social services practitioners, also from the northern medical unit or from Churchill?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 395-13(5): Health Services Agreement in Principle

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do not believe so because I do not think there is an area of expertise in the northern medical unit for the social worker's aspect of services. It is recognized that the nurse practitioners and the social worker's vacancies were an issue or continue to be an issue, I guess, in the Keewatin. One of the priorities is to fill those

positions on a short-term and on a longer-term basis, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 396-13(5): Status of Hay Job Evaluation System

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are addressed to the Minister of the Financial Management Board Secretariat and some followup in relation to this new job evaluation and classification system. Could the Minister indicate, given the fact that he said this is a subject of negotiation, will the current job classification and evaluation system stay in place until an agreement is hopefully reached?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 396-13(5): Status of Hay Job Evaluation System

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

I have said, consistently since this issue started, and I, as the Finance Minister, initiated discussions with the UNW and offered a cooperative arm in trying to reach a resolve, that we want to come to an agreement. I say again today publicly, just to reassure everybody, I would like to come to an agreement by April 1, 1998, that would put new monies into the hands of female employees and some additional cash into those who are still here and those that have gone on the retroactive side. Should no agreement be reached, the existing job classifications, I would imagine, will have to remain in place and would. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 396-13(5): Status of Hay Job Evaluation System

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given the fact that this new system is part of the negotiation process, is there also

a possibility that, in fact, the final configuration of this system could be changed somewhat as a result of the negotiation process? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 396-13(5): Status of Hay Job Evaluation System

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

I cannot project how the negotiations are going, but I think I said that there was some flexibility in terms of how we would spend these monies, but that the total expenditure side was \$25 million on retroactivity, \$9 million on ongoing and an additional \$6 million to the collective agreement. As long as it is within the fiscal framework of those dollars, I would leave that up to the parties to decide how it is spent. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 396-13(5): Status of Hay Job Evaluation System

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Following up on the Minister's commitment to, in fact, communicate a little more fully with employees to try to address their concerns, will he be including this type of information as well, so that there is a very clear understanding of the process and the system and how it will be implemented? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 396-13(5): Status of Hay Job Evaluation System

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you. Well, I think it would be fair to say we are frequently criticized for our lack of communications. I would hope in the last two or three weeks that we have kind of changed some of that pattern, especially when it comes to pay equity. We have tried to, at least from our perspective, present the facts and present the fiscal realities that we are all living with.

Certainly, we intend to continue with that information campaign, both at a territorial and at an individual level. I am trying to provide as much information as I can to our employees of how this pay equity issue and the collective agreement issue will provide them additional dollars and reward them for the job they have to do. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Roland.

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Question 397-13(5): RCMP Services in Inuvik

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question at this time will be directed to the Minister responsible for Justice. I would like to know from the Minister if he has any information regarding the RCMP in Inuvik and if there are any plans for reductions. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister of Justice, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Return To Question 397-13(5): RCMP Services in Inuvik

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have had the Department of Justice speak with the RCMP for further detail after the issue was brought up by the Members yesterday. I am informed that a forensic identification position will move out of Inuvik, likely to Yellowknife. This is an under-utilized position in Inuvik dealing with crime scene investigation, blood splatters, criminal sketches, et cetera. Also the two general investigation positions, in other words, plain clothes detectives, will move out of Inuvik as well as a position out of Hay River. These positions, again, are deemed under-utilized in these communities and will still give services to the outlying communities from a more central location. I am also informed that, in addition, in Inuvik, two vacancies that have been vacant for some time, will remain unfilled until the RCMP budget is brought in line. The important point here is that the number of uniformed officers or officers that deal directly with the police will not be reduced in the Inuvik region because of these minor internal reorganization measures. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 397-13(5): RCMP Services in Inuvik

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This raises a lot of concern. Although you say the positions are not fully utilized, people from Inuvik are always concerned when they hear positions are being moved from our location into the ever-growing centre, Yellowknife. I would like to know if the Minister can clarify. He mentioned there is a forensic position, plus two plain clothes positions that would be moving, but he also mentioned two vacancies that are still there. Is there a potential for five positions that would no longer be utilized or filled? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 397-13(5): RCMP Services in Inuvik

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand the concern. I think we always need a balance between the overall economic effect of downsizing versus the operational requirements of any organization. In summary, I am led to believe that we will see a reduction of three bodies from the RCMP detachment in Inuvik and a delay of the filling of two other positions in that detachment until such a time that the RCMP budget, which is very strained now as I understand it, is brought back in line. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 397-13(5): RCMP Services in Inuvik

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The RCMP budget is funded partially, by 70 percent, by this government. Is there ongoing work to ensure that some of these vacant positions do not go unfilled for long, because Inuvik, also the RCMP out of Inuvik, service a lot of the smaller communities, so you are reducing the amount of services provided to the region. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 397-13(5): RCMP Services in Inuvik

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did pose that question and I was informed that the overall effect of these reorganization changes will not reduce the level of public service to the community of Inuvik or the services that are presently offered to outlying communities. I will ensure that a briefing note is prepared and given to the MLAs who represent communities that are affected by these changes.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 397-13(5): RCMP Services in Inuvik

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On the issue of the possible reductions of any vacancies, would the Minister look to talking with RCMP or the federal government and try to establish some way of decreasing the impact of forced growth, whether that means negotiating to try and find new funding. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 397-13(5): RCMP Services in Inuvik

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a couple of issues there. One is the RCMP's expenses, on the non-discretionary side, are a large portion of their budget and is growing. This has to do with the salaries, the travel budget, et cetera and there are limited opportunities there, I believe. In terms of increasing the amount of money that we budget for the RCMP, presently the Government of the Northwest Territories pays for 70 percent of the policing costs for the NWT for a total of a \$28 million share that the Government of the Northwest Territories pays out, compared to an additional 30 percent that is paid by the Government of Canada.

There are ongoing discussions between the Government of the Northwest Territories and the RCMP in ways of reducing costs. The most recent one is the exchange of some personnel in the Finance and Administration side to ensure the RCMP has the same type of information that the GNWT has now in the area of possible cost savings.

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**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 398-13(5): Reallocation of Fire Suppression Surplus

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. I am glad to see he is committed to being here for the whole time period. The department, Mr. Speaker, had \$4.4 million left over from its budget because it was not used in fire suppression this year. I note the Minister has reallocated \$40,000 to train a person as a renewable resource officer. Could the Minister give me some additional information as to how you spend \$40,000 to train a renewable resource officer? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 398-13(5): Reallocation of Fire Suppression Surplus

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, I do not have that type of detail readily available. I would have to take the question as notice and prepare a detailed response for the Member. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Question 399-13(5): Status of Nunavut Act Amendments

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, following up on the Nunavut leaders' meeting in Iqaluit this past January, I understood that some time in the first two weeks of this month of February the Nunavut Act amendments would have been introduced at the House of Commons. There has been a delay. Does our Premier or Deputy Premier have any information on the situation surrounding those important amendments because of the time line involved? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 399-13(5): Status of Nunavut Act Amendments

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will have Mr. Arlooktoo, the Deputy Premier, answer. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Deputy Premier, Mr. Arlooktoo.

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The working group that consists of officials from the GNWT, the federal government and the other parties have been working overtime on this issue. The Nunavut Act amendments are seen to be critical in the process and they need to be introduced and passed within the next few months. There has been good progress in most areas of the needed amendments. As I understand it, there are discussions on some final outstanding issues or points which all the parties are working on, in fact, today, and over the weekend, in order to come to a closer consensus on what is required. As far as the timing for our introduction into the House of Commons that is still planned for the next couple months and we are confident that will happen. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 399-13(5): Status of Nunavut Act Amendments

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciated the update from the Deputy Premier. We had

understood last week the act would have been brought forward in the House of Commons. It is very important the Nunavut Act be introduced to allow for the early elections and other issues which are outlined in the act. Will this government be supporting the passage of that legislation in Ottawa by lobbying or any type of information from Members in the House, going to Ottawa, to support the passage or this government representation on the issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 399-13(5): Status of Nunavut Act Amendments

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that the amendments are to be introduced next week. I am travelling this Sunday, to Ottawa, where I have a meeting on Monday with the federal Minister of Justice, Anne McLellan and the Minister of DIAND, Jane Stewart on this exact issue. One of the options we are looking at is a presentation by Members of this government to the standing committee with the House of Commons to ensure the views of northerners are reflected in the Nunavut Act Amendments and that they are passed on a timely basis. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 400-13(5): Implementation of Article 24

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question would be for the Deputy Premier concerning implementation of the Nunavut land claim. The area is Article 24. There had been some discussion last month. Can the Minister update us on the GNWT's actions to implement Article 24? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Deputy Premier, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Return To Question 400-13(5): Implementation of Article 24

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I told the House before, we had made two actions as a government on the issue of Article 24(1) earlier on in the beginning of our Assembly. We introduced the interim measures to ensure the GNWT was in compliance with Article 24. We have since worked on, approved and made public the final implementation measures for Article 24 and the basis for the basic thrust of that is to ensure beneficiary-owned companies or beneficiaries have a fair chance of competing for and winning government contracts. We are working on that, on an ongoing basis, and we are also working on a report which will outline exactly our

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progress in that area detailing what kind of support we have put in toward the work of complying with Article 24 of the Nunavut final land claim agreement. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 400-13(5):  
Implementation of Article 24

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on the interim measures compliance, have they been successful to date, have they been welcomed receptively by the land claim organization, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 400-13(5):  
Implementation of Article 24

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can only say that the interim and final measures the government introduced, were done in consultation with NTI. We did get an agreement from NTI on the documents before making them public.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 400-13(5):  
Implementation of Article 24

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Deputy Premier mentioned the report on the interim measures. When will that report be coming to the House or when would the Deputy Premier be making that report public?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 400-13(5):  
Implementation of Article 24

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the things the measures we put forward requires is, not only do we need to take actions to ensure Inuit-owned companies and Inuit themselves have fair chances and do compete and receive the awarding of government contracts. The other part to that is a fairly complicated and detailed reporting plan that the GNWT has had to put together. This includes monthly, biannually and annual reports. I would be pleased to table soon, that portion of the requirements and the reports will be tabled when they are due. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Question period is over. Final supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 400-13(5):  
Implementation of Article 24

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, is it fair then to say because of Article 24, indeed, there have been few, or none at all, negotiated contracts in the Nunavut settlement region? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 400-13(5):  
Implementation of Article 24

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**



Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the area of negotiated contracts, the GNWT is in support of negotiated contracts. There are situations where negotiated contracts can help and assist the fledgling companies, especially in the smaller communities, get started and get a foothold in their area of business and become successful.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. 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 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Mr. Todd.

ITEM 17: FIRST READING OF BILLS

BILL 9 Loan Authorization Act 1998-99

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that Bill 9, Loan Authorization Act 1998-99 be read for the first time.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Your motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 9, Loan Authorization Act 1998-99 has had first reading. First reading of bills. Mr. Todd.

BILL 12 Write-Off of Debts Act, 1997-98

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**HON. JOHN TODD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that Bill 12, Write-Off of Debts Act 1997-98 be read for the first time.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Your motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 12, Write-Off of Debts Act, 1997-98 has had first reading. First reading of bills. Mr. Todd.

Bill 13 Forgiveness of Debts Act, 1997-98

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that Bill 13, Forgiveness of Debts Act, 1997-98 be read for the first time.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Your motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 13, Forgiveness of Debts Act, 1997-98 has had first reading. First reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Mr. Todd.

ITEM 18: SECOND READING OF BILLS

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek consent to proceed with second reading of Bill 9, Loan Authorization Act, 1998-99.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. The Minister is seeking consent to give second reading to Bill 9. Do we have any nays? No nays. Mr. Todd you have consent.

BILL 9 Loan Authorization Act 1998-99

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Honourable colleagues. I move seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe that Bill 9, Loan Authorization Act 1998-99 be read for the second time. Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes the Commissioner or the Minister acting on behalf of the Commissioner to make loans to Municipalities for the 1998-99 fiscal year.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Your motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 9, Loan Authorization Act, 1998-99 has had second reading and accordingly the bill stands referred to a standing committee. Second reading of bills. Mr. Todd

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Again Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to proceed with the second reading of Bill 12, Write-Off of Debts Act, 1997-98. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister is seeking consent to give second reading of Bill 12. Do we have any nays? No nays. Mr. Todd you have consent.

BILL 12 Write-Off of Debts Act, 1997-98

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Honourable colleagues. I move seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe that Bill 12, Write-Off of Debts Act, 1997-98 be read for the second time. Mr. Speaker, this Bill authorizes the Write-Off of Debts under section 24 of the Financial Administration Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 12, Write-Off of Debts Act, 1997-98 has had second reading and accordingly the bill stands referred to a standing committee. Second reading of bills. Mr. Todd

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again colleagues, I seek consent to proceed with the second reading of Bill 13, Forgiveness of Debts Act, 1997-98. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister of Finance is seeking consent to give second reading of Bill 13. Do we have any nays? No nays. Mr. Todd you have consent.

BILL 13 Forgiveness of Debts Act, 1997-98

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, honourable colleagues. I move seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe that Bill 13, Forgiveness of Debts Act, 1997-98 be read for the second time. Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes the forgiveness of debts under section 25 of the Financial Administration Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 13, Forgiveness of Debts Act, 1997-98 has had second reading and accordingly the bill stands referred to a standing committee. 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 Report 04-13(5); Committee Report 05-13(5); Tabled Document 15-13(5) and Tabled Document 19-13(5). With Mr. Steen in the Chair.

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

I would like to call the committee of the whole to order. For consideration in committee of the whole we have 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 Report 04-13(5); Committee Report 05-13(5); Tabled Document 15-13(5) and Tabled Document 19-13(5). Could I get some direction from the committee on how to proceed here? Mr. Ootes.

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee wishes to proceed with Bill 8, Appropriation Act 1998-99, Committee Report 02-13(5), Committee Report 03-13(5) and Committee Report 05-13(5) and that we consider the NWT Housing Corporation and following that we consider Tabled Document 19-13(5). Perhaps if we can have the Minister for the Housing Corporation read his report and then have a break, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

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

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Mr. Chairman my preference would be to carry on with the committee in terms of the budget. The P3 and I have indicated to Mr. Ootes and others that we

would be prepared to deal with that next week. We know that is an important initiative and I appreciate that Mr. Ootes does want to

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get it off the table. I do not have all the answers today to the issues that will undoubtedly be raised with respect to the P3. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Todd. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Ootes

**MR. OOTES:**

Perhaps Mr. Chairman we can consider as I have mentioned, Bill 8, and do the Housing Corporation, perhaps the Minister and I can discuss what should be next on the agenda after the Housing Corporation.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Does the committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you. I will then direct the committee to page 8-6 of the NWT Housing Corporation and Bill 8, Appropriation Act, 1998-99. I will now ask Mr. Arlooktoo, Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, to provide his opening comments on the department's estimates. Mr. Arlooktoo.

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to present, to the Legislative Assembly, the 1998-99 main estimates for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation.

We have requested a total contribution of \$98.7 million, \$43.5 million for capital programs and \$55.2 million for operations and maintenance. Both figures are slight increases over last year's capital funds of \$43.2 million and operations and maintenance funds of \$55.1 million. Over \$200 million will be spent on housing in the north this year when we include Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation contributions.

With the money included in these estimates, approximately 700 projects will be delivered under the Plan 2000 initiative. Mr. Chairman, this government is committed to promoting and supporting northern manufactured goods. The contract conditions of the Housing Corporation ensure that northern labour, goods, services and contractors are utilized, creating jobs and economic activity in the communities.

As the Honourable John Todd announced in his budget speech, an additional \$40 to \$50 million will be forthcoming from the government over the next two years for the Accelerated Home Ownership Program. It is expected to provide home ownership to 1,000 additional families in the next two years.

There are a number of benefits under this initiative:

- The Housing Corporation will serve more clients under the Expanded Down Payment Assistance and Independent Housing Programs. These programs have been very popular, with the number of applications significantly exceeding what the Housing Corporation can provide and;

- Even more low income families in the north will have the opportunity to move into social housing units made available by higher income tenants who become homeowners. Also, any GNWT staff housing units made available, because the occupants choose to become homeowners, will be transferred to social housing, thus increasing the social housing stock.

- Mr. Chairman, as I said in the House, the 1996 housing need's survey showed that there was a core housing need of over 4,300 households. Many of these are aboriginal families. The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development did not make any commitments to help solve the housing problems in the north in their response to the Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, denying the north new funding that aboriginal people in southern Canada will receive for housing. The GNWT decided we cannot wait for the federal government to provide assistance to deal with our growing housing problem. Therefore, the GNWT has stepped in to provide innovative solutions through this initiative.

As I stated previously in this House, I am pleased the corporation has developed a western Arctic affirmative action plan. This \$300,000 initiative will create four affirmative action training positions in the western Arctic. The program will be aimed at developing managerial skills in potential affirmative

action employees, who can then seek employment in the new government of the Western Territory. The program also promotes increased training amongst existing affirmative action staff in the corporation. Mr. Chairman, those are my opening remarks, I will be pleased to answer any questions. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. I will now ask the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Social Programs for his committee's comments on the department's estimates. Mr. Enuaraq.

**MR. ENUARAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee was generally satisfied with the 1998-99 main estimates as presented by the corporation. Except for revisions due to additional programs being taken on from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the numbers matched those already reviewed by the committee during the consideration of the business plans and five-year capital plan.

The committee made note of the following issues during its review of the 1998-99 main estimates of the NWT Housing Corporation:

The committee believes this is a worthwhile program and applauds the corporation for EDAP's development. As with any new program, there are always glitches that need to be addressed after the first year. The committee was pleased to be informed by the president of the Housing Corporation that there will be a Housing Corporation senior manager's meeting in December to examine the program and make the necessary adjustments. The banks are a major component in assuring the success or failure of the EDAP Program. The corporation is encouraged to maintain a close working relationship with the banks and keep them apprised of any changes to the program.

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The committee looks forward to being informed as to the results of the senior managers' meeting on the Expanded Downpayment Assistance Program and reviewing the recommendations made as a result of this meeting.

The committee would appreciate being kept informed as the progress on the agreement being negotiated for provision of property management services by the corporation for Public Works Canada. When

finalized, the committee would like to review the terms and conditions of the agreement.

The committee has noted the corporation's decision to delay implementation of the third stage of rent increases for social housing, pending a review. The committee would like to be involved in the final decision-making process.

The committee was concerned that the Housing Corporation might not be factoring the cost of production of traditional arts and crafts when determining the rent scale for a craft producer. The committee understands that it is a difficult task to monitor the amount of money made in traditional pursuits, however it does seem unfair that those who are honest in reporting their income, pay higher rent than those that do not report their true income.

The committee was pleased to learn that the corporation is developing a plan to deal with mortgage insurance. Committee members are aware of instances where the untimely death of the principal wage earner has resulted in hardship to a family accessing one of the corporation's home ownership programs. The corporation is to be commended for their compassion in dealing with the families and the solutions they have worked out. The committee is pleased that the corporation realizes that there must be an affordable mortgage insurance plan to ensure the economic survival of a family after the death of a principal wage earner.

The committee was pleased to learn that the Minister has had several positive meetings with the Honourable Jane Stewart, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, and that he feels the Minister is starting to realize that many of the health and social problems that exist in the Northwest Territories are due to the shortage of adequate and affordable homes for our people. The committee strongly encourages the Minister to pursue further his efforts to obtain the necessary funding to deal with the critical housing needs in the north.

The committee sought clarification on the criteria for determining which communities have or will receive new refrigerators over the two years of the program. A preliminary review by the Members of the committee indicates discrepancies in the numbers. The Minister indicated the refrigerators in social housing units in the NWT were all purchased in the mid 1980s and those fridge replacements in the east (Nunavut) would be complete at the end of the 1998-99 fiscal year. With only six communities in the

western NWT scheduled to receive refrigerator replacements before division, it is apparent to the committee Members that this will become a division issue.

The committee is pleased with the approach the corporation has implemented to phase out the Rural Remote Housing Program. The committee believes that if the corporation can rationalize all of the programs that it administers and make these programs fair and equitable, it would go a long way to restoring harmony in some communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Enuaraq. The committee will now take a break.

--Break

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

I would like to call the committee back to order. We are dealing with NWT Housing Corporation and the Minister of the Housing Corporation has made his opening remark. It was an opening remark from the Social Program Committee, which had reviewed this matter. Now we are in the process of general comments. Before we get into general comments, I would like to ask the Minister if he wishes to bring in the witnesses.

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Yes, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Do we agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Proceed, Mr. Minister. For the record, Mr. Minister, would you please introduce the witnesses to the committee?

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With me on my left is Mr. Dave Murray, the president of the Housing Corporation and Mr. Jeff Anderson, the corporate comptroller of the Housing Corporation.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Welcome to the committee Mr. Anderson and Mr. Murray. The floor is now open for general comments. Detail. Mr. Miltenberger.

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just in regard to some brief opening comments. I just picked up the Ministers' reply to the chair of the Social Programs Committee with the information we requested. I have been trying to find an opportunity to go over that. I am not sure whether my colleagues, in fact, have seen it. There may be some information in there that they will have to repeat if we have not had a chance to look at it.

I also have some questions when it is under the appropriate activity in regard to the Housing 2000 Program. Specifically,

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information on how many people are in the program that, in fact, can actually have the financial capability of maintaining a mortgage and all the other attendant costs that go with home ownership.

I would also like to ask, at the appropriate time, about any further work that has been done on looking at moving some of the regional positions at various district offices, that has been up before the committee a number of times, and putting them in the communities where their services are required. As well, I would like to get a little update on the mortgage insurance. I noticed you have covered in your letter to the committee, but maybe you would speak a bit more of that under the appropriate heading, as well? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. At this time, I would advise the Minister and the witnesses to keep notes. At the end of each and every Member who has spoken or made a general comment, we would like you to respond at the end, after each Member has spoken. Thank you. General comments? If not, I will ask the Minister if he would like to reply to Mr. Miltenberger before we get into detail. Mr. Minister.

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank all Members for the many meetings and letters they have

given to me over the past year. The issue of housing is one that seems to be of common concern and high priority for the Assembly in general. The initiatives we have been able to move forward on have been with the cooperation and the assistance of all Members and we really appreciate that.

On the issue of mortgage insurance, we have issued a short response on mortgage insurance to the Chair of the Standing Committee on Social Programs. There is not a lot of detail in there, however I would like to ask Mr. Murray to make some comments on mortgage insurance in general, briefly. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Murray.

**MR. MURRAY:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The issue of mortgage insurance relates to protection for families in case of the death of one of the major wage earners in the family. Where there is a bank mortgage in place, we encourage all clients to buy the mortgage insurance offered by the banks or through a private insurance company. We have to take a serious look at, within our own programs, some of our access clients because our access clients do make payments, but they make those payments to us. We have to decide, as a corporation, how to best assist those families in the case of a death.

We have looked at the issue of buying insurance on behalf of those clients. The problem is, it would probably cost more to do that and charge that back to the client because of a small number of clients, overall against the cost of insurance. We are looking at that option, but we are also looking at whether it may be better to do this by policy through self-insurance. We will go to Cabinet and in the case of the death of a major wage earner, our access program allows us to write that mortgage down to as low as \$32 a month, under our own program guidelines. This may be the way to handle it as well. Our plan is to have something ready for the Minister and perhaps the Cabinet by the end of March.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. NWT Housing Corporation, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$55.240 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. On page 8-7, NWT Housing Corporation, contributions, headquarters, total region, \$3.856 million. Agreed?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Mr. Henry.

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I note in the Minister's comments where they are spending an additional \$40 to \$50 million in the next two years. It is not clear here whether that is divided, the \$40 to \$50 million is divided over two years or it is each year? Could the Minister clarify that, please?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Contributions, Mr. Minister.

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$40 to \$50 million that the government announced some days ago is over and above the numbers that we have in the main estimates. To answer the Member's question, it is over the two years rather than this one fiscal year.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Contributions, headquarters, total region, \$3.856 million. Mr. Henry.

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister has alluded to the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development not making commitments to solve housing problems in the north as outlined within the Report of the Royal Commission for Aboriginal Peoples. How active is the Minister pursuing this type of funding? If he could also tie that into the statements that in southern Canada the federal government would be paying these costs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Housing Corporation, through the president has had numerous letters, phone calls and meetings discussing the need for more housing. I have, on several occasions, met with the Minister of DIAND, Jane Stewart, on the issue and also the Minister Responsible for CMHC, Mr. Alfonso Gagliano, on this issue. Leading up to the federal response on the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, I did meet with the Minister of DIAND twice in the several weeks following up to her release. Although we were pleased, they made mention of the fact they recognized the severe housing shortage across the country and we also like to believe we had a part to play in ensuring they made mention of that fact, there were no specific funds earmarked for the north.

It is an area we are still working on. In addition to dealing with federal ministers, we have passed on information, statistics, copies of letters, et cetera to northern MPs. I understand they

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have used some of that information in correspondence and committee meetings in Ottawa. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. I have Mr. Henry and Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and I thank the Minister for that information. I am not sure if he touched on the major point of my question which was his comment that aboriginal people in southern Canada would receive funds for housing. He has indicated this government is putting the money into housing because Indian Affairs are not doing it in the north. If the Minister could address that, I would appreciate it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Minister.

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reserves and status Indians of southern Canada receive on-reserve housing funding from the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs and we, in the Northwest Territories, do not receive any from the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs. I stand to be corrected on whether

or not the Hay River Reserve receives some, but I do not believe so.

The transfer funding that we give for social housing is from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, mostly for operations and maintenance for social housing but it is from that particular department of the government.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Henry.

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If, in fact, the federal government does provide funds for aboriginal people living on reserves, is the department actively pursuing requirements they may have as regard to Hay River Reserve? I believe that is the only reserve that we have in the territories. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our position on this issue has always been very clear with the federal government in that the federal government has a fiduciary responsibility to provide adequate and affordable housing to aboriginal people, whether it is on or off reserves or whether it is for Inuit of Nunavut or elsewhere, they do have that responsibility. In general, their response has been that through CMHC transfer funding, they have passed on that responsibility to the Government of the Northwest Territories by providing funding through the CMHC. That is a point that we disagree on. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Contributions, headquarters, Mr. Henry.

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to affirm my support for the Minister in this department that the federal government should be providing these funds. I find it a little difficult though, to see what incentive there would be for the federal government to live up to their responsibility if the Government of the Northwest Territories is just going ahead on their own saying, if you are not going to do it, we will do it. I do not see much of an argument for getting reimbursed for those

funds spent on housing. Does the Minister have any comments on that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is certainly a point that has crossed our minds. If the Government of the Northwest Territories, decided to step in and provide additional housing, does that take the federal government off the hook, so to speak? Does it make it easier for them? I guess the short answer would be yes, in the short term, but our demographics and the way our population is growing right now will ensure that unless they step in fairly soon, what you will likely have is a situation here in the north similar to the news report you saw of Davis Inlet, et cetera. I think, with the housing program that we have now where we encourage home ownership and less dependence on the government which allows some people in social housing to move out of those houses and open some houses up for the less fortunate, that we have contained a part of the problem. The day will come, in the not too distant future, in a matter of a few years, I think, that unless the federal government steps in, and we have shown them all the numbers, that we will have much larger problems. I believe that they understand it. The, mention made by Minister Stewart in her address on her response, I think was significant but as I said in my opening comments, disappointed that they did not go that next step, but we expect them to sometime down the road.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Contribution, headquarters, Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am glad to see the corporation has developed a western Arctic affirmative action plan. It would be very nice if the other agencies and government departments followed the example of the Corporation. What I would like to know is, is this affirmative action plan for current staff or will this be for new positions?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The intention is that this initiative will increase the net aboriginal staff, but the training opportunities that we identified are for promotional-type actions for existing employees.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The statement had indicated that there would be four new positions created. Could the Minister indicate where those positions will be?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Yes, Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is an initiative that I truly support and sanction and have worked with the president on. This is one that President Murray has spent a lot of time on and pushed through, so I would, if you do not mind, like to ask him to make comments and answer the

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question that Mr. Erasmus has posed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. President, Dave Murray.

**MR. MURRAY:**

Thank You, Mr. Chairman. Actually, the whole initiation of the western Arctic affirmative action plan came out of recommendations and discussions at the Standing Committee on Social Programs last fall where there was concern that the corporation was not, perhaps, doing as much in the western Arctic as it might have been doing in other places. Therefore, we put together a plan, financed in-house and we have actually created now five positions, three of which are going to provide opportunities for people in-house to move up in the organization by getting training in a higher position and that will allow us to backfill their jobs at the appropriate time. We have two new employees of the corporation from outside. That means there are training opportunities primarily through to April 1999, when we will be able to



reassess long-term employment potential as a result of the new territories being created. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Was there an indication that those two new positions are already filled or will there be an opportunity for people to apply on them?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Murray.

**MR. MURRAY:**

I am positive one of them is filled but I am not sure about the second one. I would have to check.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Mr. Chairman, I have no further questions in this area, but I would, once again, like to indicate the fact that this is a very good step and I am pleased to see it. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Arlooktoo, would you like to respond to that? I am sorry about that.

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Just to indicate that the corporation did receive good support and advice on this from the Member and we will continue to work with the committees on this type of initiative. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Under contribution, headquarters, Mr. O'Brien.

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In reference to the requirements for 4,300 homes, apologies, this information has already been given out, but as a refresher, is there a breakdown as to where these homes are required? I know the majority, or a lot

would be in the east, but can we get a better breakdown on that?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we have provided the information to the committees and to all the Members, both in overall numbers, I believe, and the community-by-community breakdown on what is needed in that community. The additional reports that we issued, after the need's survey was completed, were an action plan to help the community work with the Housing Corporation on how to deal with that need, possible ways of dealing with that shortfall.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. O'Brien.

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is fine that the Members may know what the numbers are but I would like the public to know. Do you have the information or not? Is that not available today?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. It is a bit detailed information. Mr. Minister.

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All the LHOs have received them and all the MLAs have received copies. This was this past summer when we made a big deal of it and they were working on it. We gave them out in August. Then I made a further Minister's statement in the fall session of what had been done. We can dig out further copies and pass them to Members who want it. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. O'Brien.

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason for my question and my comments is that a lot of the times, this information does not get out to the overall public and I think it is wise and prudent if we can get it out through this avenue. My next question is in regard to

the increase in the number of units from, I believe about a few years ago when I was with the corporation, the number that we had was somewhere between 3,000-3,500 homes that were required. Now we are at 4,600 and the birth rates and so on are factors. Are there other factors that are causing this increase? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On that other information, also, it is available on the Internet in our website and we can certainly give the world wide web address to those who are interested. It is [www.something](http://www.something).

--Laughter

In terms of the factors that drive the need, population growth, new birth is certainly one thing. Another is certainly the young age that our people in the communities are having their families and once you have young couples or young single mothers at the age of 14, 15 and 16. They can only, for so long, live with their parents, and at a point, they will require their own housing. There is discussion on this in the information that we have provided, but those are some of the other factors.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. O'Brien, are you okay? Thank you. Qujannamiik. Mr. O'Brien please indicate by raising your hand if you want to continue. Thank you. Mr. O'Brien.

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In reference to Mr. Arlooktoo's comments about this information being available on

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the Internet, I am sure that if he can provide most of the constituents in the east with a computer and get them hooked up to the Internet, they would be glad to surf it. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Do you want to respond to that, Mr. Minister?

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

No.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. I have Mr. Evaloarjuk. Qujannamiik.

**MR. EVALOARJUK:**

(Translation) Mr. Chairman, thank you. I am not too sure if this is going to be the right topic or issue that I have to ask about. Can I ask this question at this present time with regard to the local housing association in the communities, the authorities or associations? I wanted to find out as to what type of authorities and rights they have. Can I ask this type of question at this present time? Mr. Chairman. (Translation ends)

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Evaloarjuk. After we finish this issue that we are dealing with, the other ones are going to be information items. If you want to proceed with your question, Mr. Evaloarjuk. (Translation ends)

**MR. EVALOARJUK:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to ask this question. First of all, with respect to local housing organizations or associations, I think they might have authority or are they just figureheads at this present time? They are usually directly under the housing association from regional communities. I do not think they have too much power when they are dealing with people who are going to be evicted. Are they like a figurehead now or do they have power to support the people who are about to be evicted and do other responsibilities? As well, with respect to private ownership of houses, this is not usually dealt with through the Housing Corporation, but at the same time, there are private houses that are rented privately in the communities. With respect to these private homes or if some company makes a building such as a school, there has to be some kind of an inspection that goes on, to determine if it was built according to building codes.

Going back to private homes, a lot of times, these units are built very high from the ground, and sometimes the elderly own these private homes. They may only have one exit, and if there was a fire there would be a major emergency with only having one exit. If an Inuk contractor was to build this unit

with one exit, it seems to me that it would be considered hazardous. Are the housing associations in the community considered figureheads? My second concern is the lack of proper exits in houses that are being built in the communities. I have heard these types of concerns with regard to houses in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (Translation ends)

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Evaloarjuk. Mr. Minister.

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, regarding the local housing boards, my response will be to the first question. Concerning the other question regarding emergency exits, I will leave that up to Mr. Murray to respond to. The local housing boards within the communities are elected members. As to the authority and powers that they can exercise, it is always in relation to the desires and the responsibilities that the board wishes to take. They have that discretion. If they feel their powers are fine and well, it would give the impression that the secretary manager has the power and the authority when, in fact, the boards are delegated with certain powers and they, in turn, delegate the administration of those duties and responsibilities to their secretary manager. They are also the deciders on the selection process for who gets the units. The boards make decisions on the selection of applicants as to who gets what unit and who qualifies for HAP and other home ownership programs. If they are advised as to housing needs, the housing board also has the authority to act on those recommendations.

The impression might be, in some communities, that the housing boards are very powerless in relation to concerns and issues about rental assessments, rental increases and rental scales. Whether people complain about the cost of their rent, technically they have to follow the rules of the law whereby they do not really have the authority to adjust rents because it is accordingly applied according to the rules. In areas where there are evictions, the housing boards, whether they are associations or authorities, once they have been given notice of an eviction, there are usually no other appeal processes aside from the housing board's decision. Outside of these issues, they do have power. I will let Mr. Murray respond to the second question regarding one exit unit that the Member is concerned about as possible fire traps. (Translation ends)

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Murray.

**MR. MURRAY:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it is our own corporation's rental units, they will have some units that do not have escape systems that are appropriate. I am quite prepared to have the corporation go and assess those houses and ensure if a design of a house does not allow us to put a full door in, to ensure there is a proper escape system in social housing. In terms of private housing, it is either owned by individuals or rented. We do have programs available that allow us to go in and make repairs and that type of thing depending on the extent of the work involved. I do not believe there is a law that says you have to have two doors, although I think there is something in the building code that says you have to have a means of escape, certainly from a second storey situation. I will check that out.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Murray. Mr. Evaloarjuk.

**MR. EVALOARJUK:**

(Translation) Thank you. If I understand correctly, there is no law that requires two exits unless it is a double or further storey building. I mentioned earlier that these are two-storey buildings with a basement. I believe there is a rule or a law, for safety reasons, which requires a person to have more than one exit. I am quite positive that there is some kind of law that needs to be applied. What I was trying to say was that in Igloolik, there are a number of private residences owned by a company from Iqaluit, and they are rented through these companies in Iqaluit. I understand that, according to specifications, a rule is broken if you do not have two exits in a

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unit that has a basement or an upper unit. Thank you. (Translation ends)

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Evaloarjuk. Mr. Murray.

**MR. MURRAY:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will work with the safety bureau, which is Public Works and Services, as

well as the local housing office and make sure that we address those issues right away. We will work with the community to identify which units we have to address first.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Murray. Contributions, headquarters, total region, \$3.856 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Mr. Picco.

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I would like to thank the Housing Corporation staff, Mr. Murray, and in particular, the Minister, Mr. Arlooktoo, who are in support with the transference of Canada Mortgage and Housing units in my community, which includes the Coop housing units and the Aakuluk Day Care, and the support they have given us to keep the Aakuluk Day Care Building up and running. I would like to thank them for that help.

Recently I wrote to the Minister for the Housing Corporation about some concerns with the lack of social housing and new social housing units. I know we do not have any new money because of the federal cutbacks to build social housing units and the programs that we have come up with, like Plan 2000, which have been successful, still have not addressed the concern of new social housing units. Has the department looked at some way of facilitating new construction of social housing units or as outlined in the earlier letter I wrote to the Minister and the department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Minister.

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I said earlier, social housing units are one of the areas we are most short of. I thank the Member for the letter he wrote. Our hands are tied, somewhat, with the lack of resources. However, there are a couple of things we have on the go that should help this out a bit. One is, if we could find the capital to replace these older social housing

units, the NKR units especially, if we sell them or if they are destroyed by fire, et cetera because we still have operations and maintenance money for that particular house. It is a matter of finding the capital. There are some opportunities there. The other, which is not finalized, is under the P3 proposals that the Assembly will be discussing next week. I am hopeful that we can put in a proposal for everyone to consider in terms of rent supplement units, which are apartment building types that are built by the private sector, but are rented for low-income families by the Housing Corporation, with or without ECE income support help. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. Mr. Picco.

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the lack of social housing is probably the greatest need is in the Nunavut settlement area. There has been some success with rent supplements in Iqaluit. The White Row is an example, and the Brown Building. It is not because of the availability of the units or better units but because of the lack of anything else available. I would support the initiative being brought forward by Minister Arlooktoo under a P3 proposal, which was what I had asked for a few weeks in a letter. Sometimes we criticize the Housing Corporation for not addressing this area, but indeed, we do not have the money available and that is a concern. Sometimes constructive criticism and solutions like the P3 may be a good area. Not only will it help out the social housing issue, but it would also generate income and jobs.

Following up on this area, the corporation receives additional funding through contributions from Canada Mortgage and Housing for different areas. What types of additional funding do you receive from Canada Mortgage and Housing because we no longer have the low-income housing monies available for new construction. What other types of program monies are being contributed by CMHC to the Housing Corporation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Minister.

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask Mr. Anderson to answer that question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. Mr. Anderson.

**MR. ANDERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have a few other sources of revenue, based on our current programs we offer. In the CMHC money itself, there are the unilateral programs which identify the money that was transferred from the federal government, along with the ongoing support on the public housing portfolio that we have now. That agreement we entered in at the start of this year is \$91 million. Over and above that we have, through our mortgage portfolio on our home ownership programs, we bring in between \$1 and \$2 million a year in interest revenue on those mortgages we have on the private home ownership side. Actually, it is more of a reimbursement from the staff housing portfolio that we manage on the property. We also have money that we get for the lease purchase units we rent out to public/private homeowners before they turn into the mortgage portfolio. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Anderson. Mr. Picco.

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the \$91 million that was just identified by Mr. Anderson, does that cover the cost of the operations and maintenance expenses for social housing units completely? In conjunction with that, the proposal by the government to look at the privatization of property management services of units - I believe it follows on the Keewatin trial project - although it is an FMBS, which is staff housing, is my understanding correct in that proposal that, indeed, we are looking at local housing units? There are two questions there, one on the \$91 million and what it covers. The second one was on the proposal for the property management of housing units, also known as the Keewatin pilot project that

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had been done last year in the Keewatin region.  
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Minister.

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Prior to Mr. Anderson's comments on the transfer funding from CMHC for the administration and the operations and maintenance of social housing, I want to make it clear that the privatization of property management or any other initiative like that is, as the Member said, under the responsibility of the FMBS and not the Housing Corporation. We can note comments, but we have little to do with the policy side, although in some instances, we act as a contractor for FMBS for the repair and the administration side of the staff housing portfolio. With that, I would like to ask Mr. Anderson to make some additional comments.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. Mr. Anderson.

**MR. ANDERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the \$91 million we get, the agreement was signed, as I indicated and it started in April 1, 1997. It was negotiated based on the 1995-96 base year that we had in place. So what that means is they are continuing to pay their share of the public housing portfolio that we have, meaning 75 percent share on some projects, 50 percent on other projects. We are getting the same level of support that we had under the old arrangements on that.

Over and above that, on the unilateral programs there were 600 units transferred. We are getting 100 percent dollars from CMHC for that program. On the additional \$220 million in debt that CMHC has on the public housing portfolio, they have given us another \$33.5 million per year to cover off their amortization payments on that portfolio. That is what makes it up. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Anderson. Mr. Picco.

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, with the cutbacks from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation to this government, to help us complete the construction of new social housing units, the \$91 million that is currently coming to cover some of those costs Mr. Anderson just identified, are those costs tied to those units that are already in place for operations and maintenance? If we did build new social housing units, then the federal government would not, I repeat, not commit to operations and maintenance funding?

Is that correct? Is that the crux of our problem?  
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Minister.

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I understand it, the operations and maintenance funding we get from CMHC has been set and it is now up to us to manage that the best we can. If we can rollover that funding to other extra units, because we have been able to build or to rent others from the private sector, then that would be possible.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. We are on total region, contribution, headquarters, \$3.856 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Agreed. Thank you. Contributions for Fort Smith, total region, \$10.183 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you. Contributions, Inuvik, total region, \$5.592 million. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the amounts being used or put forward here, I would like to know if there is a formula or is it based on the amount of capital work being done for that particular year. When I compare this to a couple of other regions that are smaller than the Inuvik region there is a difference there. Can I get some information on that? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Murray.

**MR. MURRAY:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The numbers are based broadly on the need-survey results. They are then adjusted based on the districts, as they start taking applications from clients. It is based on demand because so many of our programs are driven by applications as opposed to us deciding up front we are going to build x-number of houses in a community. We end up having to move the money around, between districts.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Murray. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the shuffling happens, is it only when a district has not used its funding for that year? When does that kind of shift in funding occur?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Murray.

**MR. MURRAY:**

Those kinds of adjustments can happen for the reason mentioned by the Member but it can also happen because the costs on projects may be less. It can also happen because initiatives like the \$30 to \$50 million announcement that was just made in the budget speech, with that money coming on board, the amounts potentially spent in these districts will change quite a bit from what is here. This is only looking at what we have in our main estimates. As a corporation, we also look at what money we might be getting from the sale of mortgages. As that program proceeds, we get money back from it that we can re-invest in more housing. The numbers start this way, based on the contributions we get from the GNWT, then it is supplemented with money we make from other sources.

The other thing that is not in these amounts, I do not believe, is the money we get from CMHC for the repair and upkeep of the social housing units on the ground. It is not maintenance money but is more like a major overhaul, major upgrade money.

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**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Murray. I believe we just got a portion of your last sentence. Could you repeat the last sentence?

**MR. MURRAY:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe my point was, we were trying to...to be honest, I forget what I was trying to say.

--Laughter

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Murray. Mr. Minister.

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Yes, Mr. Chairman. What Mr. Murray said in his last sentence was that what you have here are only what the Legislative Assembly votes in and decides to contribute to the Housing Corporation. What you do not have here is the extra funding from several different sources, including the major repair money from the federal government. There is revenue from other sources listed later on, I believe. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Included in this amount, for example, in the Inuvik region you have \$5.592 million, as monies for the EDAP, the Extended Down Payment Assistance Plan, the Home Improvement Program, and, I believe there is some emergency repair funding? Can you give us the information as to what it is broken down into? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Minister.

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the \$5.592 million allocated to the contributions for the Inuvik region, you have \$47,000 for the senior citizens' home repair, \$35,000 for the Emergency Repair Program, \$1.4 million for the Independent Housing Program and the Housing Corporations' contribution to the EDAP portion, which is the lever, the bank financing, we have \$3.672 million. In addition, there is a total of \$416,000 for various small equipment, modernization and improvement money and some retrofit. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the independent housing for the seniors and disabled?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Murray.

**MR. MURRAY:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Independent Housing Program is intended for those people who can afford the operating costs on a home, but they are below the income to get a mortgage with the bank. Under our Expanded Down Payment Assistance Program the cutoff point is whether they can afford a 30 percent mortgage at a bank. Below that is where we offer the Independent Housing Program. It allows people who can still afford to pay the operating costs of the home to become homeowners, but they do not necessarily qualify for the bank funding.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Murray. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the concerns that comes up when you talk to past clients of the Housing Corporation is the number of different programs that change from year to year. I am wondering about this Independent Program compared to the EDAP program. While listening, a couple of things come to mind. You might have, correct me if I am wrong, two neighbours, one who can afford a mortgage who has to go to the bank although he gets assistance from EDAP. Then there is his next door neighbour who does not qualify for a mortgage but is basically, I do not know if you could say given a home, but what is the comparison? The concern here would be two neighbours and two houses, but one has to get a mortgage and one gets it through the Housing Corporation. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Minister.

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Murray will deal with the different programs, but I wanted to indicate that,

indeed, there have been different types of programs over the years that are geared toward different income brackets and are very much dictated by how much the government has at the time. If we could build more houses, if we could assist more new homeowners and make it easier for clients to lower their mortgages or lower the number of years they have to pay for a mortgage, et cetera, we could. Our hands are tied, in some cases, by the amount of cash that we have on hand. With that, I will ask Mr. Murray to speak a bit on the different types of programs and why they are the way they are.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. Mr. Murray.

**MR. MURRAY:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To answer the Member's question, there is a repayment required on the Independent Housing Program. The difference between it and the Expanded Down Payment Assistance Program is we hold the mortgage on the Independent Housing Program because the amounts...it would be borrowing a lot less from the bank and it really is not worth it for the banks to get into that. We had enough trouble selling the banks and CMHC on allowing us to go to a 70 percent down payment form of assistance. We are still holding those mortgages, but there is repayment on those to us.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Murray. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In Inuvik early this winter, the case was brought up about the homeless there who are living in tents throughout the year. Is there any funding available through any of your programs that would allow these individuals to be given the resources to, for example, build a log house, which is a little more suitable than a tent throughout the year? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Minister.

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a couple of things going on in that fund. First of all, the

individuals may be or may have been eligible for social housing, or may not have been for various reasons, if they have

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arrears to LHO or have run into other problems, they might not be. However, applying for social housing with the Inuvik Housing Authority is always an option. On the general issue of the homeless and dealing with that is one that Mr. Dent and I have committed in the House to try to find solutions or options for. It is raised mostly about the situation here in Yellowknife, but there are situations in other places, too. Although I cannot speak to details of what is being discussed right now between the Housing Corporation, ECE or Health, I can say that we do have officials exploring options of where we could go with helping the homeless. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. We are on contributions, Inuvik, total region, \$5.592 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you. Contributions, Baffin, total region, \$11.791 million. Mr. Enuaraq.

**MR. ENUARAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are talking about various Baffin region communities. Can the Minister indicate which communities we are talking about and how much we are allocating for each community? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Enuaraq. Before I ask the Minister to respond, I would like to recognize Premier Morin's granddaughter, Jessie.

--Applause

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Welcome to the Assembly. Mr. Arlooktoo.

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**



Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, we do not have that type of information. That information would be made available to us as the year goes on, as applications are received from the communities and are approved. What I can say is of the total \$11.7 million for the Baffin region, the amount is broken down in general, as follows: \$2.8 million in the senior citizens' home repair, emergency repair and independent housing programs, lumped together, it is \$2.843 million, for the EDAP Corporation the contribution is \$6.9 million. The various repairs and support programs, which includes mobile equipment and retrofits, is \$2 million, for a total of \$11.791 million. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. Total Baffin, \$11.791 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you. Contribution, Keewatin, total region, \$6.477 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you. Contributions, Kitikmeot, total region, \$5.643 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Total contributions, \$43.542 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you. Total activity, \$43.542 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

For the record, I am on Bill 8, Appropriation Act, 1998-99, NWT Housing Corporation, corporate summary, page 8-8. These are information items. On page 8-9, information item, executive. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Page 8-10, information item, policy. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you. Page 8-11, information item, controllership. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you. Page 8-12, information item, amortization. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you. Page 8-13, information item, human resources and administration. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Page 14, information item, operations. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you. Information item, page 8-15, district operations. Mr. Miltenberger.

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could I get an update on whatever plans are in operation to look at reshuffling some of the district operations to get their resources closer to the community level? This has been brought up in the committee a number of times? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Murray.

**MR. MURRAY:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have developed a training program and have started to train our staff, especially our technical people to be able to start delivering programs so that when empowerment, as it occurs in the communities, et cetera, those positions can also be transferred. None of those are being transferred at the moment because it is very difficult to have a technical person doing program delivery or a program person doing technical if they have not had some cross-training. That cross-training is being worked

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on this year.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Murray. District operations, page 8-15. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you. Page 8-16, information item, contributions to local housing organizations. Mr. Picco.

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Earlier I had asked about the Housing Corporation's allocation to staff housing. I note under contributions to local housing organizations that, indeed, the Housing Corporation is allowing money for something like 480 government staff housing units. I also understood earlier that staff housing was under FMBS. Could we have some clarification on that?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Arlooktoo.

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I said earlier, the Housing Corporation acts as a contractor for FMBS to administer and repair government staff housing units. We also take care of the checking in and checking out of tenants to these units. The Housing Corporation, with the LHOs have in effect, a contract with the FMBS to administer these staff housing units, but as I indicated earlier, we are not responsible for the policy area of staff housing. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. I recognize Mr. Ootes.

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to move a motion that we extend sitting hours to conclude this matter under discussion.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. I understand you have a motion to conclude housing main estimates. Thank you. Mr. Ootes.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Yes, Mr. Chairman. I move that we extend sitting hours to conclude the Housing Corporation's budget.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. The motion is in order and is not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. We will sit here until we have concluded. Mr. Picco.

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you. Following up on my earlier question concerning the 480 government staff housing units. I would stand to be corrected, but I believe that during the earlier reviews that we have had in the FMBS, there were considerably less than 480 government staff housing units. It seems to me there is a contradiction between what supposedly has been sold, what we have left and what is given as a contribution for the 480 units. Could I have some clarification on that first, please? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Minister.

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We can check on that. The number here, and I will quote here, approximately 480 government staff housing units across the NWT do not indicate whether these are owned or leased units, but we gather that there is a combination of the two so therefore, the number of owned units would be considerably less than the 480 stated here and the Member is correct.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. Mr. Picco.

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the contributions to government staff housing units, at the present time, as the Minister has explained, is the Housing Corporation actually administering and doing property management for their own government staff housing units? One pilot project has been put into place in the Keewatin region where there was a privatization of property management services by a private company to manage those units. Is there any analysis now on that project? Has it been completed? Has it been a success? Have there been drawbacks? Is the corporation looking at privatizing staff housing in other regions as they have done in the Keewatin? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Minister.

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Housing Corporation is not the agency that would do the analyses, it is FMBS. As a general comment from the Minister of the Housing Corporation, we do support the privatization of management of these properties and we are in agreement with the general philosophy that the government should, in as much as possible, not be in the staff housing business if we can help it at all. Whatever we can pass on to the private sector, if they can do it more efficiently, then we should. That is a general statement. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Picco.

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the privatization of property management services has been done once in the Northwest Territories and the Minister is correct, it is under the auspices of the FMBS. My concern, of course, was that at the present time, those 480 leased and government-owned units are being facilitated through the local housing associations and that is a revenue stream for them. Their budgets have been cut and there has been some concern in local housing associations where if that area is privatized, then they had to make up the shortfall. That has caused some concern. I wonder if the corporation has looked at that? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Minister.

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would be difficult to quantify right now what benefit the LHOs do get, but to indicate that for their work in administering the staff housing units they do receive some monetary benefit. How much it is, how critical it is, I could not say right now. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. Mr. Picco.

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you. Is the Minister or the department

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aware of any other initiatives that are being proposed or are in a proposal stage for the further privatization of government staff house property management services? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Arlooktoo.

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

No, I am not aware. That question would be better directed to the Minister responsible for FMBS. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. Information item, contributions to local housing organizations. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you. Information item, detail of capital, page 8-17. Agreed? Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For clarification on this information item, detail of capital, your total activity states \$52.965 million but on the previous detail of capital, it is \$43.542 million. What is the difference here?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Minister.

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This information item includes the capital dollars that the Government of the Northwest Territories gives to the Housing Corporation and was reviewed earlier plus CMHC funding and some other revenue from other sources. This is a total amount that the Housing Corporation gets. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. Information item, detail of capital, page 8-17. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you. Information item, detail of grants and contributions, page 8-18. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you. Information item, active positions. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you. Information item, income statement, page 8-20. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you. We will go back to page 8-5, program summary for NWT Housing Corporation, program summary, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$55.240 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you. Capital, total capital, \$43.542 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you. Total expenditures, \$98.782 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you. Does the committee agree that consideration to the department's estimates is concluded? Do I hear agreement?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):**

Thank you. I would like to thank the Minister and the witnesses. I will rise and report progress.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**MR. STEEN:**

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

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

Mr. Speaker, there is a meeting of the management and services board immediately after adjournment and on Monday morning of the Ordinary Members' Caucus at 9:00 a.m.

Orders of the day for Monday, February 23, 1998:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions

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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 14, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act
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 10, Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 1998
  - 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, Report on the 1998-99 Main Estimates

- Committee Report 05-13(5), Standing  
Committee on Social Programs, Report on the 1998-  
99 Main Estimates

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

- Tabled Document 19-13(5), Guidelines for  
Implementing Public/Private Partnerships

20. Report of Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. This House stands adjourned to Monday,  
February 23, 1998 at 10:00 a.m.

--ADJOURNMENT