



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

5th Session

Day 31

13th Assembly

HANSARD

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1998

Pages 1093 - 1140

Page numbers reflect printed Hansard

The Honourable **Samuel Gargan**, Speaker

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1998

Page 1093

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

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

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Good morning. Mr. Barnabas.

Point of Privilege

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on a point of privilege under Rule 20(1). My point of privilege concerns an article from the Friday, February 20, 1998, issue of the Yellowknifer. The article is entitled Questions about Confession. Mr. Speaker, the article quotes MLA Jane Groenewegen as stating that, it is unfortunate I was caught up in the dispute. She is quoted as saying;

"I don't want Levi to get hurt, personally or politically. Levi Barnabas is not a person who should in anyway be caught in the crossfire of this."

Mr. Speaker, the article also refers to my refusal to provide a handwriting sample. Mr. Speaker, at the request of the Member for Hay River, just prior to my apology in the House, I provided Mrs. Groenewegen a handwriting sample which was clearly identical to the unsigned note that the Member, Mrs. Groenewegen, took offence to.

--Applause

I say again, Mr. Speaker, it was an exact copy. I note that this fact was not mentioned in the article or by Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Speaker, I further take offence to the statement by the reporter, Mr. Richard Gleeson, that I did not respond to the media and refused to provide a handwriting sample. Mr. Speaker, I am responsible for my actions to this House and to my constituents, not to the media.

Mr. Speaker, this article and Mrs. Groenewegen's comments, if indeed, they are accurately reported, suggest that I was lying when I admitted that I was the author of the note to Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Speaker, I do not like the suggestion that I am a liar. I wish to state categorically for the record that I am not lying - that I am not, taking the fall for the Honourable Goo Arlooktoo and to repeat, again, for the record, that I am the author of the note in question - an action which I deeply regret. I trust that my words today will satisfy the honourable Member for Hay River that I was, indeed, telling the truth when I offered my apology to this House last week. More important, Mr. Speaker, I trust that my statement today will put this issue to rest. I deeply regret the fact that this House and Members of this House have been discredited by this unfortunate incident. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Todd.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 75-13(5): Federal Budget

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have an emergency statement to make. Mr. Speaker, as everyone is aware, the federal Minister of Finance, the Honourable Paul Martin, brought down his 1998-99 budget yesterday. For the first time in over a quarter of a century, the federal government has balanced the budget. I am aware of what a difficult task it is to achieve a balanced budget in even a small jurisdiction such as this one, and I commend the Minister of Finance for his efforts to achieve this goal at a national level.

Mr. Speaker, I am encouraged by this budget and by the positive impacts that it will have for northerners. A major focus of the budget is on education. Education is a priority in the NWT and the initiatives announced

yesterday complement the existing and future programs of this government, particularly supporting lifelong learning, distance education and improving opportunities for post secondary education. Our Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, the Honourable Charles Dent, will be speaking to these federal initiatives in greater detail later this week.

Mr. Speaker, the federal budget also contains measures aimed at employment which will benefit our young people, including, the elimination of the employer share of employment insurance premiums on new jobs for youths aged 18-24, and wage subsidies to employers for up to \$10,000 to encourage hiring young people who have not finished high school.

Mr. Speaker, I am particularly pleased to see that the federal government will be contributing an additional \$850 million to the Child Tax Benefit Program over the next two years. When I brought down the territorial budget on January 22, of this year, I announced that the GNWT would be supplementing the existing federal Child Tax Benefit. This additional injection of

Page 1094

federal funding, announced yesterday, means that starting in 1999, even more money that we originally anticipated will be put in the hands of families at the lower end of the income scale. This, Mr. Speaker, is very good news for northerners.

Mr. Speaker, I should point out that it is not always the information that is contained in the Budget Address which is of significance, but details contained within the budget itself. This federal budget contains a specific reference to the economy of Canada's territories, which is noteworthy. In this budget, the federal government has recognized that the economies of Canada's territories are undergoing significant change and that, as a northern government, we are pursuing diversification of our economy through various means, including a focus on the nonrenewable resource sector and, in particular, the diamond industry.

Mr. Speaker, as the Minister of Finance, I am very pleased that, with the support of our Members of Parliament Ms. Ethel Blondin-Andrew and Ms. Nancy Karetak-Lindell, the federal government has acknowledged the significance of the nonrenewable resource sector to the northern economy and has agreed to work in partnership with us to develop an

Economic Development Strategy which recognizes the changing dynamics of the north.

Mr. Speaker, I am also very pleased that the federal budget recognizes that incremental funding will be required for the ongoing operations of two new territories after 1999. The budget uses the current transfer payment to the existing GNWT as a holding figure that will be amended to reflect the two new formulas, once discussions have been concluded this spring.

Mr. Speaker, while this budget is good news for northerners, there is, as they say, always room for improvement. I look forward to a continued cooperative working relationship with Finance Canada, so that we may focus our future budgetary efforts on direct employment initiatives, on the infrastructure and on health care initiatives that northerners need and desire.

Again Mr. Speaker, my congratulations to the Honourable Paul Martin and to the federal government for bringing down a balanced budget, one which recognizes the unique circumstances of the north and which will positively benefit the people of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Ministers' statements. Mr. Kakfwi.

Minister's Statement 76-13(5): Forest Management and the Economy

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as stated in the Budget Address, economic growth is critical to the long-term fiscal health of the Northwest Territories. In an effort to stimulate economic growth, the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development actively promotes employment and economic opportunities for northerners in the forest sector. These opportunities are based on sustainable and environmentally responsible development.

Timber harvesting and processing continues to be a growing industry in the NWT, with lumber and fuelwood as principal products. Planned harvest levels for the 1997-98 season will increase by 40,000 cubic metres to a total of 270,000. This increase will add 40 direct and 52 indirect jobs to our northern economy.

In addition, local mills will handle approximately 89,000 cubic metres of primary forest products such as rough lumber and other building grade products. This is a 37 percent increase over last year's production for the local and export markets. The milling sector has room for expansion in primary and secondary wood processing, while value-added processing opportunities are still being sought.

The Forest Management Division of the department continues to transfer government services to the private sector, providing business opportunities to community organizations. Currently, forest management crew contracts for forest fire management provide employment in 17 Western Arctic communities. The contracts employ more than 180 residents and provide an economic value in these communities of more than \$4.5 million.

Mr. Speaker, utilizing northern businesses for forest management activities is a priority. Our air tanker services, equipment maintenance and additional support services are all contracted from community businesses in the north. Other services provided by contractors include forest management planning, development, research and traditional knowledge in northern forests. These activities will generate over 70 direct positions and stimulate a variety of community support services.

The department is also encouraging more northern involvement in forest development businesses and support services in the fields of aerial photography, forest inventory, information services and silviculture. Forest silviculture including site preparation, tree planting and thinning offers ideal employment and economic opportunities at the community level. Contracts in these areas support existing northern businesses and encourage new northern ventures in the technology and information field.

Future plans include an expansion of northern business involvement in forest inventory, planning for integrated resource management and expansion of the value-added sector.

Forest inventories, when complete, could indicate a sustainable annual harvest level of more than 500,000 cubic metres of spruce and pine saw logs and another 500,000 cubic metres of aspen and birch. This would more than triple our current harvest figures and has the potential of creating at least 500 direct jobs and 800 indirect jobs in harvesting, milling and basic silviculture. Training will provide the skills and

abilities for northerners to secure and maintain these jobs.

Mr. Speaker, our forests offer tremendous potential for sustainable, long-term employment in our forest-based communities. My department will continue to promote the business of forest management as a viable and sustainable source of economic security for northerners, by northerners. Thank you.

Page 1095

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Ministers' statements. Ms. Thompson.

Minister's Statement 77-13(5): Status of Women Council Appointments

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to announce the appointment of seven new board members to the Status of Women Council of the NWT. However, before I announce these appointments, I would like to say thank you to those outgoing members who have made a significant contribution to the work that has been done by the council. These women are: Vera Morin of Yellowknife, Elizabeth Lyall of Taloyoak and Joan Kalaserk of Rankin Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, the newest board members to the Status of Women Council of the NWT are Eliza Kingdon of Iqaluit, Jeannie Padluq of Kimmirut, Phoebe Palluq of Clyde River, Cathy Towtongie of Rankin Inlet, Tessie Gonzales of Hay River, Theresa Cazon-Whelly of Fort Simpson and Vi Beck of Yellowknife.

Mr. Speaker, these new board members will continue working on the initiatives that the Status of Women Council have implemented, while at the same time, they will face many challenges as we move toward the establishment of the Nunavut Territory. As Minister Responsible, I commend the council for all their achievements and wish them continued success in the work they are about to undertake. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement 320-13(5): Income Support Appeals

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about my concerns with the lack of education and about the income support appeals process. In most communities, there is an income support appeals committee, but in some communities, there is not. There is not enough education of the people in the communities about the right to appeal income support decisions. In the communities with no appeal committee, many applicants are completely unaware of how to go about making an appeal, if they are not satisfied with the outcome. There is not enough information known in regard to the appeals process in most communities, where most applicants are totally unaware. Income support applicants and recipients should be aware of how to go about filing an appeal, should the need arise.

Therefore, I would like to express my concern in the whole process of how community residents are educated on the appeal process. I feel the department could make greater efforts to educate people in the communities in the process dealing with appeals. Perhaps they could inform residents through radio or posters, including an appeal statement in the newspaper where someone could help them through the process, anything to help educate them on how to fill out their appeals. With the large degree of difficulties in the appeals process, Mr. Speaker, I understand the concerns those people have, as they are only given seven days to file an appeal. I believe they could be better informed about the process when they appeal income support decisions. With that, Mr. Speaker, I will be asking the Premier a question on this matter.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Erasmus.

Member's Statement 321-13(5): Comments on Federal Budget

MR. ERASMUS:

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make some comments about the federal budget. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I

would like to congratulate the federal government on balancing their budget. We understand that it is not an easy task as we have had to do the same thing. However, I would like to categorically state that this is not the time for major tax cuts, neither is it the time to pour major dollars into the social programs.

Mr. Speaker, this country still owes over \$900 billion, and the only reason, I feel, that we have been able to make substantial gains in the past year is because of low interest rates. Mr. Speaker, the Government of Canada must keep interest rates low. The banks make billions of dollars every year and Canadian citizens do not need to continue subsidizing the banks. What we need to do is close the loopholes for companies who have not paid income taxes for several years, decades in some cases, I understand. I understand that the federal Finance Minister has moved cautiously in several areas, for instance, in the area of education, which as you all know, I am considerably interested in. There will be money going to help students who owe money after graduation from post secondary institutions. There is also a northern economic development plan. Hopefully, this will assist us in developing a secondary diamond industry. There is also a child tax benefit which we have discussed here earlier and this will assist the poorest people who need it the most. There is also a moderate tax benefit for low and middle income families who also need this. I think that there could have been employment initiatives and it would have been nice to have something in the health care area, since we have such substantial costs in health care, travel costs and forced growth.

Overall, it was a good news budget, but I reiterate, Mr. Speaker, that this is not the time to begin dancing in the streets. This is not the time for major tax cuts or major spending. We still owe over \$900 billion, and because of that, Mr. Speaker, I understand that 40 percent of our national revenues goes to pay the interest on the national debt. Once we get rid of that \$900 billion debt or a substantial amount of it, then we can do our dancing, then we can cut our taxes by 20 percent and still pour money into social programs and we could still regard ourselves as the best country in the world to live in.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, we cannot hand out rewards before they are earned. Thank you.

Page 1096

--Applause.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Rabesca.

Member's Statement 322-13(5): Rae-Edzo Municipal Funding

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as you are aware, over the course of this session, I have pushed to ensure that the shortfalls within the municipal funding formula for the communities of Rae-Edzo are fair and equitable. I know the Minister has instructed her staff to work with the hamlet to ensure this historical problem has been resolved. I am confident that Ms. Thompson will make history in the near future by finally correcting this problem that has been around since the community was established in 1971.

However, Mr. Speaker, I am not sure why my community and myself did not receive support from other colleagues from Yellowknife. I would like, at this time again, I would like to thank my colleague Mr. Ootes, for his support and efforts. Mr. Ootes sees the entire picture, where I guess, my other colleagues from Yellowknife do not.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to tell this House a few facts about the marriage between Rae-Edzo and Yellowknife. For years now, many people in Yellowknife have thought of Rae-Edzo as the small Dogrib community down the highway. This is true compared to Yellowknife. Rae-Edzo has a population of approximately 2,000 residents and is the largest Dene community in the Northwest Territories. Rae-Edzo has a very small business base, basically as the result of having Yellowknife so close. Rae-Edzo contributes millions of dollars every year to businesses, charitable organizations and entertainment facilities within Yellowknife. This happens year in and year out. It is a permanent relationship formed by pure economics and in some cases, a detriment to the overall growth of Rae-Edzo.

Mr. Speaker, many people over the years have recognized this relationship, the mayor of Yellowknife, the president of the chamber of commerce, private businesses and others. However, when it comes to support over a fundamental issue such as the municipal funding formula, the truth is finally told.

As we see it, Mr. Speaker, what is good for Rae-Edzo, ultimately is good for Yellowknife. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause.

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements. Mr. O'Brien.

Member's Statement 323-13(5): Baker Lake Inuit Heritage Centre

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize the establishment of the Inuit Heritage Centre, a special project in Baker Lake that has been initiated and developed by the elders of Baker Lake. This centre provided a great solution to our elders as they face two major challenges. Mr. Speaker, they are the last representatives of the unique Baker Lake Inuit Group. These were the only Inuit people living a traditional inland life based on a diet of caribou and fish.

Mr. Speaker, with instincts sharper than university tools, the elders simply decided to present their traditional wisdom in a modern form that would appeal to youngsters, tourists and historians as well. The elders were the driving force behind the new Inuit Heritage Centre. The concept was theirs and while the old community hall was being renovated, they helped design the building and develop the story line.

Their final and perhaps most brilliant idea included a room inside the centre where elders can meet, record oral history and discuss the details of their ancestors lives. The exhibits will be constructed next. They will eventually display such treasures as the centre's own Kazan River and Back River kayaks, a collection of caribou-skin clothing and a variety of other traditional artifacts and crafts.

Our elders are determined to ensure that their ancestral traditions will be preserved through exhibits, audio and video recordings. When funding permits, the elders intend to purchase materials to demonstrate the construction of traditional items in the original style as an instructive part of the centre.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that his Excellency, Mr. Romeo LeBlanc, the Governor General of Canada and his wife, Mrs. Diana Fowler-LeBlanc, will join our elders on June 3rd, this year in officially opening the Baker Lake Inuit Heritage Centre.

Mr. Speaker, hats off to the Baker Lake elders, Mayor David Tagoona and the council for their hard work on this project. Thank you.

--Applause.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Member's Statement 324-13(5): Anonymous Note Incident

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to make a few comments on the point of privilege raised earlier by Mr. Barnabas and once again, I would like to say thank you very much for trying to clear the air as I had tried to do the other day. Members will recall that I did raise a Point of Privilege in the House, which I argued for, and the Speaker did agree, that my privileges had been breached, and that there was a case for breach of privilege and I was in a position to take the next effort to propose a motion on how to deal with that breach.

However, on the morning of the day that we were supposed to propose that motion, I was informed and did receive an apology from the Member for Hay River. I accepted the apology and believed that the apology was made honestly and with meaning. I found out later on in the day that further statements casting doubt on my statement saying that I did not write the note and Mr. Barnabas' statement that he was the one who

Page 1097

wrote the note. I believe that what happened on that day and the previous day was a deliberate effort to create doubt and mistrust in the House, on the fact that Mr. Barnabas had written a note. There were further suggestions that Mr. Morin and myself had put Mr. Barnabas up to saying that he wrote the note when he did not. There were other rumours on how that had occurred. That, to me, is totally unacceptable. It is a style of politics that is not mine. Mr. Speaker, I notice that my time is up. I would like to conclude my statement. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Members for allowing me to try to clear the air once again. What had happened since the time when I had made the public statement and Mr. Barnabas had made his statement and was interviewed, et cetera, in the media suggesting that other things were going on that I must tell the House again, were not going on? There was no deal, et cetera. I do not want to stand here in the House and deny things because I think what that does is it raises the profile of that, but I have to say that here in the House again. The point that I want to make is how unacceptable it is for me and to my constituency how this whole thing has been handled by the Member for Hay River, by the Member for Yellowknife Centre, the newspaper, and by others, from what I have seen, it has taken a parasitic approach to feeding on this issue. Living on, politically, the cloud of mistrust and suspicion, to me, is not acceptable. That is not the way I do politics. It is, in my way of thinking, dishonest. There are other things I could bring up, my own analysis of why this has occurred, but I will not say in the House. Maybe I will say that in a media interview, which I am very open to taking afterwards. The final thing that I want to suggest, Mr. Speaker, is that I am so upset at this situation, my constituents are very upset at this situation. I have taken steps to ensure that a credible forensic examiner will do a credible analysis of my handwriting and any others, perhaps, all of the MLAs in the House, to clear up once and for all, who wrote the note because Mr. Barnabas has said twice, that it still did not clear the air.

Further, I am making arrangements to take a polygraph test, a lie detector test which I will be pleased to table again, in the major session, to show that I did not, in fact, write the note. Mr. Speaker, those are a few words from the heart, perhaps a bit disorganized but, once again, I would like to thank the Member for High Arctic for trying to clear the air once again. Thank you.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mrs. Groenewegen.

Member's Statement 325-13(5): Response to Comments of Members

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For my Member's statement today, I would just like to say that I have heard portions of Mr. Barnabas' point of privilege and Mr. Arlooktoo's Member's statement this morning. I will review an unedited Hansard before I respond to it, but I did hear things which I definitely do think require a response. I will be providing that and I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Picco.

Member's Statement 326-13(5): Legislative Assembly Artwork and Carvings

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have had an opportunity on several occasions to take people from Iqaluit on a tour of our legislative building. All were very impressed and have asked about the Inuit art work and carvings that are here. Mr. Speaker, this building that houses the NWT Legislature cost approximately \$25 million. It has many amenities and has much art work, wall hangings and carvings. Many of the carvings, for example, are from the late 1960s and early 1970s. These carvings are quite valuable. The mace that is presently used was largely constructed in Cape Dorset. Will it be retired and transferred to Nunavut? Mr. Speaker, the artifacts, pictures and carvings are unique to Nunavut. Is there a process to catalogue and identify that art work? Will the art work be transferred to Nunavut, so that Nunavut residents will have an opportunity to see and appreciate the work of previous generations? Mr. Speaker, the art work is very valuable and later today, I will be asking questions to the appropriate Minister on this matter. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a resident of Grise Fiord, Mr. Seeglook Akeegok. He is the renewable resource officer in Grise Fiord who will be attending the conference on Peary caribou in Yellowknife this week.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Picco.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 434-13(5): Legislative Assembly Artwork and Carvings

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I just mentioned in my Member's statement, I have some questions concerning the artifacts, carvings and such, in the legislative building. Would the Premier, be able to let me know what process is in place to identify and catalogue those artifacts to see if, indeed, some of that property which is owned presently by all the people of the Northwest Territories could be transferred to Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 434-13(5): Legislative Assembly Artwork and Carvings

Page 1098

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that the vast majority of the art, wall hangings and the things which decorate the Legislative Assembly were gifts to the people of the Northwest Territories and kept in this building on behalf of the people of the Northwest Territories. Other than the fish in the Caucus room, is mine. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 434-13(5): Legislative Assembly Artwork and Carvings

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, several times when I have had an opportunity to take people around the Legislative Assembly, they have remarked at the carvings and the wall hangings. For example, when you come into the building the caribou there is quite

unique. They have been gifts to this government. I understand that some of the carvings and wall hangings that are presently in this building, Mr. Speaker, were actually bought by this government. They came from the Executive Collection. Has the Premier looked at some type of protocol arrangement or if those carvings, wall hangings and art work, could be transferred to Nunavut on a permanent basis? Is there some type of mechanism in place where they could be transferred to Nunavut, so the residents of Nunavut could have an opportunity to appreciate that art? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 434-13(5): Legislative Assembly Artwork and Carvings

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All residents, all of the people in the Northwest Territories, when they have the opportunity to visit the Legislative Assembly, have the opportunity of seeing all the art work in the Legislative Assembly. Like I said earlier, it is kept in this building for all people of the Northwest Territories. All the paintings and art are numbered by the Northwest Territories government. It is all kept track of. This is how it is kept. As far as the Member's concern on whether or not all that stuff could be transferred to Nunavut, I will raise that issue with the Speaker, who is in charge of this building, and I will let the Member know what he says. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 434-13(5): Legislative Assembly Artwork and Carvings

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier can keep his fish that does not need to be included on the list. Mr. Speaker, after division, many residents of Nunavut will not have the opportunity to come to Yellowknife because there will not be any reason to come here. Even on a borrowing or lending basis, would be opportune to give the residents a chance to share in the unique artwork of previous generations. My supplemental question, Mr. Speaker, concerns the Mace. Is there a process in place, with the present Mace as an example, where it could be retired? Is

there any type of protocol with the current Mace which was largely constructed in Nunavut? The last time it was in Iqaluit was this past spring, we heard that it was priceless. Is there any type of process in place for that? I think Mr. Morin is really ready to answer this question. I will give him an opportunity. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 434-13(5): Legislative Assembly Artwork and Carvings

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are two Maces. The original, I believe, is held in the museum as well as the Mace that is here. It does represent all the people of the Northwest Territories. It is a Mace that is made and it has parts from the Western Arctic, parts from Nunavut, so that it does represent all the people of the Northwest Territories. There is no doubt in my mind that April 1, 1999, there will not be a border put up between Nunavut and the Western Arctic where we do not share and work together.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear! Hear!

HON. DON MORIN:

We have a long standing understanding. We have an ability to work together. We prove that in this House daily, Mr. Speaker, all Members working together. We have close relationships with the Nunavut people and I believe that will just continue after April 1, 1999. We will continue to have a close working relationship with them. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 435-13(5): Income Support Appeal Process

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my earlier statement, I wanted to ask a question of the Premier in regard to the income support appeals process. Mr. Speaker, all of my constituents often approach me to ask questions about the appeal process. I am sure we are not the only community that has this problem. My

question to the Premier is, is there a way that you can direct the department to review the existing process for notifying people about the appeal process? Could you ensure that the existing process is approved, so people are made aware of their rights to appeal?

MR. SPEAKER:

The Premier. Two questions.

Return To Question 435-13(5): Income Support Appeal Process

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be pleased to take that up with the Minister responsible for Income Support that there is an issue the Member has raised on the appeals process and Income Support. I would not direct any department to do anything at this time, but I will talk to the Minister. This is how we will handle this issue that the Member raises.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 435-13(5): Income Support Appeal Process

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Premier

Page 1099

when he is talking to the Minister, possibly look at some sort of publication or announcement made on the radio, so that people are informed verbally as well as by putting up posters and what not, so that people are aware of this appeal process?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 435-13(5): Income Support Appeal Process

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do have people in our communities who are income support workers that work very hard and I commend them for the work they do. Possibly, we can work with our communities in partnership as to what would be the best approach on how to make sure the clients all know what options

are available and open to them. We will work in partnership with the communities. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 435-13(5): Income Support Appeal Process

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Premier suggest to the Minister that he may put out a press release on the appeal process, so people are made aware of it immediately?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 435-13(5): Income Support Appeal Process

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I could suggest that to the Minister and I thank the Member for his recommendation. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 436-13(5): Federal Reference to Incremental Funding

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Finance. It is in regard to his budget statement this morning. Could the Minister elaborate, since I have not had a chance to see the details of the budget on this section, on page 4 or 5, where he makes reference to the fact that the federal budget recognizes incremental funding, given the imminent nature of division and how important it is going be to have adequate gross expenditure bases in each territory? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 436-13(5): Federal Reference to Incremental Funding

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was as encouraged as my Cabinet colleagues were that there was reference in the fine print, in the budget to the fact the federal government was working with the territorial government and the partnership the territorial government has to provide funding for the two new territories. It made reference to the fact that while they were using the current budget as a holding number that there clearly was a requirement for additional incremental costs. It was a statement in the budget that is what it said, in terms of the detail. My point this morning was that I was encouraging the fact we were able to get it there. That was due in part to our efforts, as well as our MPs efforts. It is a symbolic gesture to the federal government saying to the rest of the country that we are ready to move in providing adequate funding for the two new territories in April 1, 1999. We and my Cabinet colleagues have appreciated that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 436-13(5): Federal Reference to Incremental Funding

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister elaborate on his comment in the line about the existing GNWT budget being used as a holding figure? Does that mean that is a minimum, it will be built on and it is not going to go the other way? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 436-13(5): Federal Reference to Incremental Funding

HON. JOHN TODD:

Yes, that is exactly it. That is the reason I referenced it in my statement this morning. The reality is, as my honourable colleague knows and the House knows, we are in intense negotiations right now. I am optimistic that we will be able to reach an arrangement and meet the targets that we set for ourselves in April, 1998. I certainly hope so. My reason for referencing it was to show clearly that the federal government, through a statement, whether it is

a small paragraph or not, in the budget, in the detail, has committed to incremental costs as it relates to the two new territories. I am confident, as my Cabinet colleagues are, that we will be able to accomplish that, in the not to distant future to, hopefully, have a reasonable good news story for both east and west. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 436-13(5): Federal Reference to Incremental Funding

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister also touch on the issue of where transitional funding fits into this particular scenario? I know incremental funding is very critical, but the issue of transitional funding has always been on the table and questioned as well. Does this have any impact on that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 436-13(5): Federal Reference to Incremental Funding

HON. JOHN TODD:

No, Mr. Speaker. The transitional costs are

Page 1100

separate entities that are being discussed between the Interim Commissioner's office and the Honourable Jane Stewart's office. This reference in the budget was in reference to the ongoing, long-term operations and maintenance costs related to two new territories. I will get those two paragraphs that one and the economic one, which are also a good sign for us. I will get that excerpt from the budget for my colleague and the colleagues in this House. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 436-13(5): Federal Reference to Incremental Funding

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While we are waiting for those two paragraphs, could the Minister touch on economic issues in the reference to the resource sector in diamonds. What is the impact of that? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 436-13(5): Federal Reference to Incremental Funding

HON. JOHN TODD:

We do not have the details of that. We are working fairly hard today and tomorrow trying to get a much more explicit interpretation of what that means. Again, my Cabinet colleagues and particularly, Mr. Kakfwi, the Minister of RWED, is encouraged by the fact the federal government said in its budget that it wanted to work with the territorial partners in the establishment of a partnership working toward the new changing economy in the territories. We were extremely pleased to see there was a reference to diamonds in that. What that translates into, I do not want to speculate at this time, but from my position as Finance Minister, what that could translate into is perhaps, an agreement between the federal and territorial governments or the two new governments in relationship to a new economic agreement. I am certainly hopeful that is what will occur. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 437-13(5): Policy on Government Gifts

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question will be to the Premier. I would like to follow up on some of the comments of Mr. Picco earlier this morning. It is nice to know the Premier gets to keep his fish and as usual, Mr. Picco has fallen for the hook, line and sinker. My question to the Premier is, does this government have any policy about when it receives gifts or gives out gifts? Do we ever put any conditions on gifts this government gives, that we may wish to take them back? If this government gives a gift to another government or entity, is there a condition put on it or is there a chance this

government may ask for it back at some time? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Laughter

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 437-13(5): Policy on Government Gifts

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We would never give anybody a gift and then ask for it back. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Erasmus.

Question 438-13(5): Minister's Statement on the Federal Budget

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to ask some questions to the Minister of Finance on his statement on the federal budget, particularly in the area of the economic development plan for the north. Could the Minister elaborate a bit, I know Mr. Miltenberger briefly asked that question earlier? Could the Minister elaborate a bit on what he does know in this area?

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 438-13(5): Minister's Statement on the Federal Budget

HON. JOHN TODD:

I am encouraged by the fact we were able to get two brief paragraphs in relationship to formula financing and of course, economic growth in the territories. We do not have the details at this time, and I am sorry because the budget was just announced yesterday. As I said earlier, Mr. Kakfwi's office has been working diligently to try to encourage the federal government to look at the possibility of another economic agreement similar to what we had in the past. It would be imprudent of me at this time to suggest that may occur because we are not quite sure of the detail. In the next three or four days hopefully, we will have some of that detail. If, in fact, there is a desire on the part of the federal government, which we hope there

is, to join us in partnership with some new economic agreement, which Mr. Kakfwi will be taking the lead, as Minister of RWED, I am sure Mr. Kakfwi and this Cabinet will be pleased to provide the House with as much information as we can at that time. At this time, it is just not clear as to how that is going to come about. We are certainly encouraged by the fact it was in the budget. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 438-13(5): Minister's Statement on the Federal Budget

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am sure that whatever has occurred or did occur, as a result of or was influenced by the work of our two MPs, Ms. Ethel Blondin-Andrew and Ms. Nancy Karetak-Lindell, could the Minister indicate whether he and his department have been conferring with our MPs and to elaborate on this issue?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 438-13(5): Minister's Statement on the Federal Budget

HON. JOHN TODD:

Anything of this nature is a collaborated effort, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, I said today and in earlier

Page 1101

interviews, I want to applaud both of our MPs, Ms. Ethel Blondin-Andrew and Ms. Nancy Karetak-Lindell. I know the Premier and Mr. Kakfwi have been strong advocates of trying to find another economic agreement that would bring some cost sharing between this government and the federal government on economic activity. As I said earlier, the statement which I will provide to my colleague, in the back-up detail of the budget, indicates the economy of the Northwest Territories is changing dramatically. It requires a new partnership and makes specific reference not only to diamonds but to the nonrenewable resource and the renewable resource and indicates in several lines the federal government is prepared to sit down with the territorial government in seeking a new partnership. The Premier, in his

discussions with his federal counterparts, has been encouraging that over the last little while. There was some discussion with respect to the other provincial jurisdiction seeking its support when the Premier was on the Team Canada trip recently. I am optimistic that between Mr. Kakfwi, the Premier's efforts and whatever efforts I can contribute to this issue that we will be able to move in partnership with the federal government on some new economic initiative. I am sure Mr. Kakfwi and others will be prepared to share that with this House and with the territories as a whole, once the detail unfolds in the coming days. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 438-13(5): Minister's Statement on the Federal Budget

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just received this budget speech this morning as well and I have not had a chance to look at it in detail. Since the Minister indicated the Budget Address had in fact mentioned diamonds, is he optimistic this can be used to develop a secondary diamond industry in the north here? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 438-13(5): Minister's Statement on the Federal Budget

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I managed to get the actual wording that is in the budget and I think it will be of some value to the Members. I think all of us earlier this morning in our Cabinet Caucus meeting are encouraged by this. Both the Premier, Mr. Kakfwi and myself have spoken vigorously about the need for the diamond industry to benefit northerners and we are much more optimistic that will occur. This is what it says:

The federal government is committed to working with the territorial governments and other northern partners to develop a modern economic development strategy that recognizes the dynamics of the north and the need to establish a more diverse economy. It

makes specific reference to development of traditional economies, knowledge-based economies and a new diamond industry.

That is encouraging Mr. Speaker. Again, I want to applaud, my Cabinet colleague's efforts and the two MPs for getting this detailed stuff into the budget. I think it is a first, quite frankly. It indicates the federal government is certainly prepared to sit down with the territories and work toward a new economic partnership. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 438-13(5): Minister's Statement on the Federal Budget

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Finance Minister for indicating the exact words used in the budget. The other question is, whether or not the federal Finance Minister is willing to use his budget and what he has indicated in his budget speech, whether he intends that to be used for this purpose? Is the Cabinet still adamant about purchasing diamonds to ensure there is a consistent supply of diamonds here in the north for a secondary industry?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 438-13(5): Minister's Statement on the Federal Budget

HON. JOHN TODD:

As the Premier has stated, Mr. Kakwi and occasionally myself, we think the access to rough diamonds is an important issue for northerners and certainly that commitment and the need to have meaningful and constructive dialogue with industry are there. I am fairly confident these discussions will be underway soon. Hopefully, we will be able to come to a reasonable agreement, as my honourable colleagues have said, on a frequent basis. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mrs. Groenewegen.

Question 439-13(5): Social Impacts of Diamond Mining

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Premier. The Premier's recent statement on the GNWT's position on northern diamonds has raised a number of questions that I believe require clarification as these issues could conceivably affect all northerners and they should fully understand them. The Premier stated that \$17 million on average per year, the territorial government could expect to receive as its share of the royalty regime, would not be sufficient to address the required infrastructure and social programs in support of the mine. I am wondering if the Premier could provide the House with a general idea listing of what the social program's infrastructure that we will need to put in place to accommodate the mine? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 439-13(5): Social Impacts of Diamond Mining

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do not have the exact numbers for every portion of expenditure that we would have to do as a government. Everyone is well aware the infrastructure, just in roads alone, the wear and tear

Page 1102

on our highways, is quite dramatic in the building of this mine. Approximately 4,000 loads alone went in last winter. We are finding that some of our stretches of highway are deteriorating and we will have to upgrade those. We will have policing costs and we pick up a portion of that. We will have increased counselling as well as social workers and people working with the community people who are not used to working. There are other issues as well. I do not have all that information at my fingertips. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 439-13(5): Social Impacts of Diamond Mining

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for that answer. Has this government undertaken a comprehensive projection of what the total costs could be? Is this where the number greater than \$17 million is to address the needs of the mines has been arrived at?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 439-13(5): Social Impacts of Diamond Mining

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government is doing that already. We are looking at all the costs associated with the increase in population, as well as the increased draw down on our programs. There will definitely be a draw down on our health care demand, school requirements, new employees coming in, as well into the government to service and counsel people that are working and get work. You must remember, Mr. Speaker, the majority of our people come from the small communities. They basically come from a trapping and hunting environment and then into a wage economy. Those things do not happen in a smooth process. There will be a need for extra counselling and other things as well, but we are undertaking that work. Members are well aware that during the environmental process, this concern was raised by many northerners, by many northern women, especially, how do they cope with their people going off to the mine to work and leaving them in the communities. Those are all things we have to take into consideration. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 439-13(5): Social Impacts of Diamond Mining

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, is there a document which contains a comprehensive projection of what the costs are going to be to this government to put in place these social programs and infrastructures?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 439-13(5): Social Impacts of Diamond Mining

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is no finished document yet, but there will be one. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 439-13(5): Social Impacts of Diamond Mining

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Has the Premier or anyone in the Cabinet received any indication from the federal government that they would be receptive to the idea of ensuring that as an absolute bare minimum the Northwest Territories should receive enough royalty money to pay for these additional costs?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 439-13(5): Social Impacts of Diamond Mining

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, we have not. If we had, for example, someone saying to us from the federal government or mining industry, that the very most you can expect is to be revenue neutral, then those diamonds may as well stay in the ground because we have to benefit as northerners. We have to benefit from the development of our resources. Those are our diamonds and we have to benefit in order for the future to be better for our children. We have to think of the children ahead. We cannot just think of today and what job spinoffs we get from a diamond mine. We have to think more long range. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Rabesca.

Question 440-13(5): Federal Funding for Students

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, as we heard, was budget day for the federal government. Although, it was somewhat a good news budget, with the news having the budget balanced, by providing students with adequate funds for them to continue their education. My question to the Finance Minister would be regarding the funding support for students. Would this program be available to our residents, as currently, our students are not funded under the Canadian Program, as is the case in other jurisdictions across Canada? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 440-13(5): Federal Funding for Students

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, honourable colleagues. As I said the other day, and again, I am not trying to avoid the questions on the budget, I am trying to answer them to the best of my ability. First of all, we were encouraged by the fact the federal government has placed a great deal of emphasis on education at all levels, whether it is post secondary or whether it is for grants to students and scholarships. What I have learned so far, late last night and early this morning, I am optimistic there will be some benefits

Page 1103

for northern students. Certainly, if you watched Mr. Martin earlier today, in his comments on the early morning news show, he indicated monies will be provided. For example, in post secondary education, he talked about it being provided to NAIT in Alberta, to Dalhousie in Halifax and to the different institutions across the country. I am assuming this will include, for example, our Arctic College, et cetera. I have spoken to Mr. Dent as late as yesterday afternoon, and as you know, he is down there right now and, hopefully, he is going to come back with more detail.

One of the areas that may be advantageous to us is, student grants where it indicates that 100,000 students will be given scholarships over the next ten years. These scholarships will be based on need, merit and mobility. Mobility to me means the cost of moving from point A to point B. Many of our students who choose not to use Arctic College or go to

university or whatever, there is a significant cost attached to that. I am hoping this will be part of the benefit for the north, but as I said, Mr. Dent will be able to speak to that later next week. He is trying, as we speak, to get a more detailed interpretation of how these significant educational initiatives affect us. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Barnabas.

Question 441-13(5): Status of Nunavut Act Amendments

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, recently the Minister of Justice had been attending a meeting in Ottawa. I understand that the Minister had a meeting with the federal Minister of Justice and the Minister of DIAND. I understand that some of the discussions were on Nunavut commitments. Can the Minister give a status report on this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Justice, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Return To Question 441-13(5): Status of Nunavut Act Amendments

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Nunavut Act Amendments are scheduled to be introduced in the House by the Honourable Jane Stewart in the next week or so. As such, because of protocol, it is improper for me to get into the specific details, but what I can say is, the work on the bill has been done in a cooperative effort by a working group of officials from the Government of the Northwest Territories, from NTI and from the federal government. I am fairly assured that our views will be reflected in much of the bill. I can also tell the House, standing the bill, we are relatively pleased with what is proposed. We did have some concerns, however, which hence the reason why I went down to Ottawa, met with the Minister and was assured they would look at our concerns and do one of two things. One, either they could make the changes before it is introduced; or two, that we would work together with the Standing Committee on Legislation in putting together the required changes. In a nutshell, we will see soon enough the result of the proposed bill. At that point in time, it will be important for the government and the

Ordinary Members, especially the Nunavut Caucus Members, to work together to ensure that our views are reflected in the bill. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 442-13(5): Block Funding for Baker Lake

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs and it concerns with the Keewatin pilot project. Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Minister can understand the difficult situation I am in with one of my communities supporting the project and one, not. Mr. Speaker, the fact that the community of Baker Lake is not supporting the project was made very clear this week by the mayor of Baker Lake. I have to respect their views on this as their MLA, and I do, as well the wishes of the mayor of Arviat in his strong support for the project. Having said that, Mr. Speaker, after discussions this week with Baker Lake, an issue arose and I was asked to bring it forward in the House. The question, Mr. Speaker, I would like to pose to the Minister is, will the Minister consider block funding to the community of Baker Lake in the same manner, same magnitude, as she is proposing for the Keewatin pilot project that will be overseen by the Keewatin people? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 442-13(5): Block Funding for Baker Lake

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will have my staff go up to Baker Lake to do presentations on options for the community. I will consider that request. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. O'Brien.

Supplementary To Question 442-13(5): Block Funding for Baker Lake

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister tell me exactly when she is going to be visiting Baker Lake to discuss these options and if this, indeed, will be one of the options that she will bring forward for discussion with the community?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Thompson.

Further Return To Question 442-13(5): Block Funding for Baker Lake

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have asked my staff to go there as soon as possible to do presentations, but the Member has to realize this government supports the decentralized model. Those communities will have to be part of the Nunavut Territory, so we have to be careful that they do not start isolating themselves. If they are going to be sharing facilities with the other part of the territory, we have to think of that because the Member, and also the community, would like departments moved into their communities. If they are supporting a decentralized model, then they have to be willing to share their resources with the other part of the region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Page 1104

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 442-13(5): Block Funding for Baker Lake

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not quite sure how that would affect the pilot project proposal. My question to the Minister would be, would the Minister consider the fact that Baker Lake is looking for block funding on its own, so they can be empowered closer to their own region or their own community, as opposed to having other communities decide as to what their needs are, how money will be spent, where it will be shifted around and what their priorities are? Would the Minister consider this, true community empowerment, as opposed to having somebody else decide on what their priorities will be? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Ms. Thompson.

Further Return To Question 442-13(5): Block Funding for Baker Lake

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Member clarify, for me, how we are going to share regional resources? Is Baker Lake thinking of having their own architect and moving the regional resource staff into Baker Lake? Last week, we were talking about the Keewatin pilot project, that communities have to share resources of the regional staff. Those are the options we are looking at with the community. We will be doing presentations to the community of the options they should consider. For the community of Baker Lake to be block funded, are they saying they will also get their own regional architects, just block funded into Baker Lake, their own services that are being shared by all of Keewatin right now. Those are the types of questions they should be considering when they want to be block funded. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 442-13(5): Block Funding for Baker Lake

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the feeling of the community is that we have talked for the last two years about community empowerment. They see this as the real meaning of community empowerment where they will have control and authority over their own destiny. This is why they are looking to have these resources brought closer into their community. That is what I thought was being said in this House for the last two years, that this community empowerment is to shift these responsibilities to the communities. That is up to the department. There may be areas where there has to be some common sharing, such as what you have indicated. These are the questions I guess they want answered. Hopefully, they will be decided at this upcoming meeting you will have in Baker Lake. Does the Minister consider this request from Baker Lake as true community empowerment where they want to be the authors of their own destiny by controlling the capital operations and maintenance and so forth? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Thompson.

Further Return To Question 442-13(5): Block Funding for Baker Lake

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Baker Lake is one of the communities in the region who have taken on a lot of transfers and that is exactly what we are doing. What has also happened and this was probably initiated by the Member, is that we were going to do housing transfers to the hamlet. As I heard, they do not want to deal with the regional office now. Are we saying that we do not need regional offices in the future, the way Baker Lake is approaching the Keewatin pilot project? We will need a decentralized model and we will have to share resources, so those are types of options. We will have to talk with Baker Lake and my staff will be going there to talk about these options. I have been talking to members in Baker Lake who are not involved in the political arena. They want to be part of the region. They want to share resources with the region. We have to start listening to people on the street, in Baker Lake, before we make decisions to isolate the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Steen.

Question 443-13(5): Transfer of Funding to Tuktoyaktuk

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to Honourable Goo Arlooktoo, Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. Mr. Speaker, it is in regard to a letter written to the Minister on February 7th, from the mayor of Tuktoyaktuk hamlet council. In the letter, Mr. Speaker, they are requesting the Minister to consider transferring EDAP funding to the community to administer through community empowerment initiative. Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Minister is aware of the letter as he pays a fair amount of attention to his incoming mail basket. I will ask the Minister if he will indicate if he is aware of the letter and whether or not he in fact, intends to respond to the council? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation, Mr. Arlooktoo. Two questions.

Return To Question 443-13(5): Transfer of Funding to Tuktoyaktuk

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have received the letter and we are in the process of responding to it. If I can make a couple of comments on it first of all. I do appreciate the fact the community is interested in taking over more programs. That is something that I said last week. We encourage, foster and we will work with the community. I understand part of the reason for the urgency other than the community wanting to take it over, is because of the ice road conditions, et cetera, the fact there is a time limit on when materials can be delivered for housing to Tuktoyaktuk. The community of Tuktoyaktuk has had portions of the Home Ownership Program transferred to it. I understand from this new request is they would like to take over more. This is something I support. We have done this in six other communities and here in the western Arctic. What I can say is

Page 1105

we will look at the request positively, keeping in mind the concern about the ice road situation and also the facts that there are some details we need to work out on when a person's EDAP funding is approved. It does require some backing from the housing corporation, but those are details we can work on. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 444-13(5): Federal Budget Impacts on the NWT

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the federal budget, as addressed by Mr. Todd, his emergency statement was quite impressive, but I did not find certain areas in there for the Northwest Territories government to be very good. I would like to follow up on that. Two years ago, the federal government had cut our base funding which caused us the fiscal difficulties, which was a major part of the fiscal difficulties that we experienced as a government. There was no reduction in our base this time in the federal budget, but there was no increase either. Were those types of concerns addressed by Mr. Todd in his deliberations with Mr. Martin when this budget was put together? I note in Mr. Todd's Budget

Address, he says the federal budget contained specific reference to the economy of Canada's territories, which includes the Northwest Territories, but there was no mention of our cut by the federal government, which has not been replaced. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 444-13(5): Federal Budget Impacts on the NWT

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On a national context, I just appreciate the fact that we were mentioned. Historically, we have not. While some of us think maybe we are the centre of the universe, we simply are not. What I was encouraged with, was the fact that the Finance Minister of Canada, the Honourable Paul Martin, made it clear that he balanced the budget for this year, for next year and the year after. We should applaud him for that.

By implication of balancing the budget, that means there will be no more future cuts. He has also indicated in the fine print in the budget that incremental costs associated with division of the two territories would be there. I would hope that my honourable colleague, who I know has a keen interest in ensuring there is adequate funding in the eastern Arctic, would be encouraged by that, as I am. I am encouraged by the fact there are no more reductions in federal territorial transfer payments. That is in keeping with the commitment I had from Mr. Martin, both on a personal and a professional basis. I am encouraged by the fact there is reference to division and the term incremental costs are there, in the verbiage, in terms of the fine print. I am optimistic we will be able to sit around the table, all parties and indicate that the funding that will be provided on April 1, 1999 east and west, will be adequate. I do not know how much more I can say. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 444-13(5): Federal Budget Impacts on the NWT

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sometimes we feel because we are in the Northwest Territories, we do not count for much for something, and we should really get excited when they mention us in a line item. Our situation here is 82 cents of every dollar comes from the federal government. When you look at \$60 million out of a multi-billion budget, it is not much of a line item to have been rebased. That was the point of my question. Following up on my question to the Finance Minister on the budget, one of the big concerns we have in the Northwest Territories because our salary levels are inflated due to the cost of living, some programs offered on the federal level, we do not qualify for. As an example, Mr. Speaker, when they talk about a family making \$30,000 in the south, that is probably \$60,000 in the north. Has Mr. Todd looked at those cases inside the budget? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 444-13(5): Federal Budget Impacts on the NWT

HON. JOHN TODD:

I do recognize my honourable colleague has not had the same opportunity to get the same detailed briefing as I have, but I do not think there is any reference to anybody making \$30,000. I believe the tax credit is to families between the \$50,000 and \$65,000 range, for which there is a significant amount in the Northwest Territories who benefit from that. As I said earlier this morning, while the tax credit, for example, and that is one of the issues I think my colleague is alluding to, dollar-wise is not a significant amount, it is something like \$238. The fact that tax credits is on the table is significant enough for the next stage of negotiations, as I think there is more to come in 1999 and the year 2000. That is just one example of if you look long term rather than looking for the quick fix. I am encouraged by the direction in which the federal government is going. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 444-13(5): Federal Budget Impacts on the NWT

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that was not the point I was trying to make at all. My point was in the Northwest Territories, when a family makes \$30,000, that is about \$18,000 equivalent in the south because our cost of living is higher. When the federal government comes out with amounts like \$50,000 for a family in the south that is a very large number. Fifty thousand dollars in the north would probably be an \$80,000 salary because of the differential in cost. That is what I was trying to point out. I wonder if he could respond to that, now that he knows what I am talking about. Will he be working with the Finance Minister to have those numbers increased? That is one of the reasons why we came up with the northern allowance tax deduction, to offset that extra cost in extra salaries. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Page 1106

Further Return To Question 444-13(5): Federal Budget Impacts on the NWT

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, many of my provincial counterparts have been pushing hard for tax relief, even some of the opposition. The Reform Party said the same thing. What I am trying to say to my honourable colleague, Mr. Martin probably had the most difficult task of any Finance Minister in the history of the federal government, a balanced budget for the first time in 30 years. He has had to make some tough choices. You cannot spend what you do not have. He indicated yesterday and today, from what I saw, I do not want to sound like an advocate for the man, but certainly I admire what he has done, and I am proud to say that today. As an advocate, we are in a situation where he is advocating there will be additional initiatives by the federal government in the year 1999 and the year 2000 because he is projecting a balanced budget in these years. The fact that we have tax credits on the table, my honourable colleague, is an important one because it was not there before. You have to give the man some credit that he had to balance the budget. He is now looking at options that will be good for Canadians and northern Canada. I think that is important.

One area, I talked about earlier today, the child tax benefit, which my honourable colleague almost single-handedly persuaded me months ago that we

should look at, there is going to be an additional \$850 million there. I would hope he would be encouraged by that and I am sure he is. This will put more money into the hands of the less fortunate. It is a good budget. It is not perfect by any means. I said earlier today in the press I was concerned about a number of areas: infrastructure, job creation, health care, et cetera, so there are some areas that have some weaknesses. I am encouraged by the fact this is the first step for future initiatives, which I hope we will be able to do, with my provincial counterparts, influence Mr. Martin in the coming months ahead, and I certainly intend to do that with the clear and concise advice that I get from my colleague from Iqaluit and other Members of this House. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 444-13(5): Federal Budget Impacts on the NWT

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am encouraged by the faith the Finance Minister has put in me. I would just like to follow up because he has not answered my question again. Mr. Speaker, when the federal government announces tax credits based on a base salary, they use a figure of \$30 or \$40, but in the north because the cost of living is higher, we have a differential of 30 and 40 percent. Has the Finance Minister communicated that situation, so that indeed, more northerners could be eligible for these tax credits because they are all based on gross family incomes? Gross family incomes are a lot different from gross family incomes in the south, about a 30 percent differential. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd

Further Return To Question 444-13(5): Federal Budget Impacts on the NWT

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To help my colleague out, I have some notes here I could indicate, to him, that the elimination of the federal three percent surtax for individuals earning less than \$50,000, there will be some benefit for people between \$50 and \$65,000 and no change on the three percent surtax on \$65,000 above. This measure will also benefit higher

income taxpayers in the north that they claim the northern deduction or RRSP contribution, so I believe there is a benefit there. On the other side of the equation, the tax-free component of low-income families will increase by \$500 for single taxpayers and by \$1,000 for families of two or more. This will be a benefit to northerners. That is the only point I am trying to make here. I am certainly an advocate of tax cuts as everybody knows. We certainly indicated that in the last two budgets. I am encouraged by the fact these are on the table right now and as we move forward for further provincial, territorial and federal discussions with Mr. Martin for the coming years, we now have an opening to see if we can encourage him to do more. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Barnabas.

Question 445-13(5): Nunavut Unified Court System

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to follow up more on my questions earlier to Mr. Arlooktoo. I understand the unified courts are a new and exciting development, one of the things to look forward to as we move toward Nunavut. My question, is how realistic, is it for the unification of the courts to happen and what is the progress? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Justice, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Return To Question 445-13(5): Nunavut Unified Court System

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The proposed unified court system for Nunavut was the other main topic I had discussed with the Federal Minister of Justice, Anne McLellan, and the Minister of DIAND, Jane Stewart, two days ago. What I would like to say as a general statement is that the unification of courts is, as the Member says, an exciting venture, He asked how realistic it is. It is quite realistic to have the unification of the courts happen in the next year or so. What we have is a political agreement from all the parties, the GNWT, NTI, the federal government, of course, all of the original and all the political groups have advocated the unification of the courts, approve of this. Of course, there are always some hints of

caution and concerns in specific areas, but overall, it is something politically, that we can move forward on. Practically, it does look quite good that it will be able to happen. One of the basic principles of unifying the courts is the view of the public which is a judge is a judge. That is, when a judge comes into a community, a territorial court judge cannot hear supreme court cases and this case would not be heard for another several months. People do not understand. In some cases it does not make sense. Therefore, this would help as far as ensuring swift justice and that there

Page 1107

are efficiencies in the system. Therefore, the federal Minister of Justice will be introducing, soon I understand, proposed changes to the Criminal Code that are required and some changes to regulations that would be required to make this happen. It is one of the things that is quite exciting and new as we move toward Nunavut. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Barnabas.

Question 446-13(5): Icebreaking Services in the North

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am directing my other question to the Minister of Transportation. I understand the icebreaking services are of critical importance to ensure safe shipping to the north. Residents and businesses depend on marine transportation during the short Arctic navigation season. We often have services and ice conditions which are very unpredictable. Can the Minister inform the House what he is doing to ensure shipping interests receive adequate levels of icebreaking support to carry out critical deliveries and exports in the north? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Transportation, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 446-13(5): Icebreaking Services in the North

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the federal government has the mandate to provide icebreaking

services for vessels operating in the Northwest Territories and in the Arctic. The Department of Transportation is assured by the federal government, especially the Department of Oceans and Fisheries, the service that requires the icebreaking support will continue to be delivered while, where and as required. We recognize it is a very essential service and the role that shipping plays, in the economy, and resupply of the Arctic for communities and businesses in the Northwest Territories. We have worked in cooperation with the coast guard and we did some hydrographic surveys. We are continuing to finish off some of that this summer. We have also made arrangements which we are all aware of the special resupply regiments that we have, such as in Pelly Bay to improve safety and reduce costs and assist in offsetting the cost of operating the larger icebreakers in the north. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

One oral question, then, question period is over. Mr. Barnabas, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question 446-13(5): Icebreaking Services in the North

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Icebreaking support will continue to be of critical importance in the Nunavut Government in the future. We depend more heavily on marine transportation than other regions of the Northwest Territories. Can the Minister ensure that the developing Government of Nunavut is involved in the process and decision-making? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 446-13(5): Icebreaking Services in the North

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is correct that this government will continue to be involved in the shipping and coast guard activity in the north. The Department of Transportation has a seat on the Arctic Marine Advisory Board and we are there, along with shipping companies and other Arctic marine interests. This board meets about two or three times a year to discuss important matters such as icebreaking. In addition, the department is a regular member of the

Canadian Marine Advisory Committee for the north. There are Inuit members as well as Inuvialuit members on this board and they have regular meetings. In addition, once the Nunavut government sets up, the deputy minister which is responsible for transportation will be involved in these meetings and on these boards as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral question period is over. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Mr. Miltenberger.

ITEM 12: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON THE REVIEW OF BILLS

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to report to the Assembly that the Standing Committee on Government Operations has reviewed Bill 9, Loan Authorization Act, 1998-99, Bill 12, the Write-Off of Debts Act, 1997-98, and wishes to report that Bills 9, and 12 are now ready for further consideration of committee of the whole.

Mr. Speaker, I also wish to report to the Assembly that the Standing Committee on Government Operations has reviewed Bill 13, Forgiveness of Debts Act, 1997-98 and wishes to report that Bill 13 is now ready for further consideration of the committee of the whole, as amended and reprinted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Tabled Document 59-13(5): Section 11, Potential Conflicts of Interest Provisions in Confidential Offering Memorandum, Aurora Fund II

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document, entitled Section 11, Potential Conflicts of Interest, Provisions and the Confidential Offering Memorandum, Aurora Fund II. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 15: NOTICES OF MOTIONS FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

BILL 15 Adoption Act

Page 1108

HON. KELVIN NG: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, February 27, 1998, I will move that Bill 15, the Adoption Act, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters Bill 8, Appropriation Act, 1998-99; Bill 11, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1997-98; Bill 14, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act; Committee Report 2-13(5); Committee Report 3-13(5); Committee Report 4-13(5); Committee Report 5-13(5); Committee Report 6-13(5); Tabled Document 15-13(5); Tabled Document 19-13(5). With Mr. Ningark in the Chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

I would like to call the committee to order. We have a number of matters on Item 19. I would like to know what is the wish of the committee? Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, that we continue with Bill 8, Committee Reports 2, 3 and 5 and that we carry on with the Department of Health and Social Services, followed by the Department of Transportation and RWED. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Do we agree we will continue to deal with considering Bill 8, Committee Reports 2, 3 and 5 and continue on with Health and Social Services if we are able to

conclude, then subsequently with Transportation and RWED? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. We shall continue. Before we go into considering the 1998-99 Main Estimates, Health and Social Services, I would like to ask the honourable Minister, if you wish to bring in witnesses?

HON. KELVIN NG:

Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right, Mr. David Ramsden, deputy minister, to my left, Mr. Warren St. Germaine, director of financial management services.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Ramsden and Mr. St. Germaine, welcome to the committee. On the list I have Mr. Steen and Mr. Ootes. Mr. Steen. We are considering Health and Social Services on page 6-10 of 1998-99 main estimates, activity summary, community health programs, total operations and maintenance, \$27.437 million. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, yesterday I was questioning the department on transfer of health to the communities. I was asking for clarification and what was involved in the transfers and what type of responsibility would be transferred to the communities. Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the department if the communities are made aware of

what type of pay scale or pay rates are expected by the government employees when these positions are being transferred to the communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that the same pay and benefits package goes over with the transfers. Of course, the municipalities are obliged to offer reasonable pay and benefits because they have all the funds that would have been provided by the GNWT to those employees. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does that mean then that theoretically the municipalities could pay other than what the particular individual was receiving under government pay scale?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, when the government first undertook the community transfers and community empowerment, there were discussions with the Union of Northern Workers that represented a majority of the employees. There is an understanding that employees who transferred over get at least comparable pay and benefits. Municipalities, of course, do have the option of providing more and in some cases they do, but certainly it is nothing less than expected that an employee would receive as a matter of transferring over.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, there are two points I wish to bring out. One is a very important one, I think. In the community empowerment

transfers including this particular department, I am not sure whether the departments are fully aware of the amount of responsibility they are putting on the communities, in particular administrative staff. I am sure the department is aware that the municipality has been experiencing difficulties in recruiting long-term SAOs because there is a lot of weight and responsibilities put on this particular individual and it seems to be growing every year depending on the aspiration of the council.

Page 1109

the councils. As an example, and this could reflect on what councils may be paying nurses in future or it may reflect, for instance, on what they pay SAOs and therefore, have the ability to handle the responsibilities that are being passed on. I quote from the report, Mr. Chairman, it says, "the average salary for a hamlet employee is \$35,500 per year compared to territorial government salaries, \$49,000 per year; compared to federal employees, NWT based, \$61,600."

Therefore, this indicates that the amount of funding being transferred to hamlets to actually do their job is quite a bit lower than what this government is paying their own staff. It suggests to me that there is a possibility that the salaries will be going down for the Health and Social Service employees in the hamlets based on what they are already paying their own employees.

Furthermore, unless there are some stipulations, I believe that the funding is being transferred must be used specifically for that purpose. The councils are going to run into problems of recruitment of proper social services and health staff. I hope the Minister and the department, Mr. Chairman, will take this into consideration when negotiating the health transfers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I do not dispute the comments made by the honourable Member in respect to SAOs being placed in a difficult position as a result of a lot of increased responsibilities. He is correct. A lot of municipalities have chosen to take on a lot of problems that have really expanded the responsibilities of the SAO and

some of the senior management at the municipal level. I cannot speak directly to it with Municipal and Community Affairs, I know they have a community empowerment development fund that is particularly used for those types of situations, in trying to beef up some of the expertise at a municipal level, management level and a council level as they assume so more of these responsibilities.

On the specific issue on recruitment and hiring retention of health care professionals, social workers and nurses, the honourable Member refers to, we do recognize that it cannot be done on a community-by-community basis. There are no economies of scale there. Even right now, we find in our recruitment and retention plan that even on a regional-by-regional basis, there is not a lot of sense in all the boards competing with each other for those same resources. It makes a lot more sense to do it on a larger scale, a territorial scale in trying to provide uniform standards, first of all, pay rates and benefits so that there is not that competition between communities and between boards, where you have some economies of having one central individual or agency providing the broader recruitment for all communities and regions, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Member for his comments.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I think it becomes more important than ever that this particular monitoring group or staff from the department that the department is planning to put in place to monitor the regional boards. It would be more important than ever that this particular group also monitored the transfers to the communities, not so much to see whether they are actually living up to the agreement but as well help them out where direction or advice is needed so if they do take the transfer, there is a certain amount of expertise that goes with the transfer that would be available from the department. I think that is very important and I hope the Minister can respond favourably that this would seriously be looked at. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Since the western Caucus will be meeting at noon, I will allow the Minister to respond to Mr. Steen and then we will take a lunch break. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, certainly, that would be the case, the monitoring evaluation unit that we have within the department. Of course, we would go through the boards, as we deal primarily with the boards, but the accountability of the boards and the communities that they represent, of course, there would be a relationship between the boards, the communities and the services that are being provided because you have to recognize there is going to be coordination and some support from the board level, never mind the departmental level, to the communities, first hand in respect to provision of services. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. St. Germaine, Mr. Ramsden and Mr. Minister. We will break for lunch.

--Break

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

I would like to call the committee back to order. We are on page 6-10 of the 1998-99 main estimates. We are dealing with Health and Social Services. The activity is community health programs. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have been waiting for a day and half, I was on the list yesterday and was overlooked. Thank you for recognizing me finally. There are a number of groups in Yellowknife who have some concerns relating mostly to the overtaxing of their facilities. This is happening because there is an influx of people from the communities into Yellowknife. In some cases there are referrals of patients, for example, to Yellowknife. As a result they may bring their families if it is for an extended stay.

There are a number of organizations, such as the YWCA, the Salvation Army, Status of Women, the Women's Centre and the social services network. They are starting to be stretched to the limit. A lot of these, of course, are non-government agencies. They are dependent upon funding from outside sources, either through grants from the government or other locations. There really is a question of inadequate resources in Yellowknife and it is very acute. It is becoming a critical problem for many people.

There is a need to address the whole question of equitable funding. How can this be addressed? Perhaps, I can pose this as a question to start with. How can the department address

Page 1110

this particular problem? For example, in the Department of Education when individuals move to Yellowknife from the communities if they are here by a certain date, say the school registration date is September 1st, if they are here by say October 1st, hypothetically, then they go on the school rolls, and the following year funding is transferred to the Yellowknife School Board. This is not the case in terms of Health and Social Services issues. They may come from the communities to come to Yellowknife and there is never recognition for the fact they are no longer a so-called need on the community, hypothetically, wherever they are from, say the High Arctic. The financial transfer does not take place nor does it ever take place here. This is a real area of concern to a number of agencies in Yellowknife. Could I have some comment on that from either the Minister or his officials?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in respect to the issue the honourable Member raises about school enrolments, of course, the Department of Education does ongoing reviews with the boards on their enrolment numbers. They make proportionate redistribution of existing funds based on past year school enrolments. I understand the Minister of Education will be able to speak more to that detail when he comes.

We do not have that type of flexibility or mechanism within the Department of Health and Social Services. We do recognize there is a lot of excellent work and support provided by a lot of non-profit community groups and agencies that operate services on behalf of those requiring assistance, particularly, here in Yellowknife. Yellowknife is fortunate. The honourable Member does make a good point that there are people who come to Yellowknife for various reasons and end up staying here, whether on a short-term or extended basis.

There are a lot more support mechanisms and groups in Yellowknife, certainly than there are in other communities in the Northwest Territories. It is unfortunate, but in a lot of our communities, some do not even have family violence shelters, if you use that as an example. It is a result of not having adequate resources or the support mechanisms that generate those types of resources. It is an issue that we are aware of. It is a difficult one to deal with, in respect of when we have limited resources, existing programs that we have to support. There is no new money to address this need. If there are requirements that require financial resources, it is a matter of where anyone would suggest that we reallocate resources to address immediate needs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did not refer to the Department of Education as looking for an answer on this. I used it as an example. It is an equitable and fair way of addressing the whole question of people from the communities who want to move to Yellowknife and go into the school system, then there is recognition tax-wise, and it is a tax-based community of that enrolment. This is not the case for the area of social services. We have to remember much of the pressure for the Social Services area is in Yellowknife because of people coming in from the communities. We cannot overlook that. A lot of these people come into Yellowknife for health reasons or whatever, out of necessity and some of the facilities we have, yes, they are being taken care of there, but there is also pressure placed on other areas. As I mentioned, we have a lot of volunteer organizations here. There are the YWCA, Women's Centre and the Salvation Army. Some of these are not even funded by this government, whatsoever.

Where I have a concern is, we need to look at a mechanism of funding this down the road because if we continue to have the kind of influx we have had in the past, it will become stretched. It is your people who are going to suffer. I am speaking of this but people, particularly from your communities have a need for this. This is where I am coming from with this whole thing. I am saying that it needs to be addressed. Perhaps I can ask through the strategic plan, I noticed Yellowknife has \$397,000. When the strategic plan is submitted to the Minister, how will

this be resolved? What is the process from there, once you have the strategic plan?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I believe the honourable Member is mixing up the issue of the strategic planning process, which is ongoing with the Strategic Initiatives Fund, understandably because we are using the terms strategic for both. The Strategic Initiatives Fund which the honourable Member is referring to because he mentioned the dollar amount in the allocations for Yellowknife. The applications will come forward, proposals from the board on which programs they want to try to target in providing some additional services, as had been indicated in specific areas in trying to address more pro-actively some of the preventive support programs that we may have available or that may be developed. This is certainly an avenue that some of the non-government agencies and support groups might be able to provide some of the services. First of all, the regional health social services board would have to put forth proposals for consideration before they could look for the delivery agent for those programs, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

A final comment. I understand there has been some effort to coordinate the many organizations involved in providing community mental health in Yellowknife. There is a desire to seek some clarity on this as to who does what and have the roles, functions and responsibilities of each, and what the government can and cannot provide. I take it, the Minister is aware of that process. Is the Minister expecting some report from those groups?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, Yellowknife city council has struck a committee of some of their members and some of the non-profit organizations and other representation from the Yellowknife area to

look at putting together a report, as the Member alludes to, on Health and Social and Services as to what type of services they want to be providing to what level they want to involve. There is certainly

Page 1111

an awareness and an effort to try and take control of the health and social services broad community-base support. This is why they have broadened the membership on the committee to include as many organizations and representatives of the community as possible. We are expecting that they are going to provide that report by sometime this fall. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Community Health and Social Services programs, total operations and maintenance, \$27.437 million. Agreed? Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is in regard to community programs presently being delivered in which there has to be more resources made available, like Mr. Steen mentioned earlier this morning, where you compare the monies which have been allocated for communities to deliver the same program or initiative that was previously administered or delivered by someone from the department. The funding and the salaries are a lot less than what would have been there if those programs had been continued to be delivered by this government. Is there any way they could streamline these funds which have been allocated to communities to bring them more in line with the actual figures and amounts that were being spent previously by the government to administer the same program?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Minister. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I responded to Mr. Steen's questions at that time and I indicated all salaries and benefits of employees that happened to be impacted through a community empowerment initiative went over to the municipality, as well as, the affiliated administrative support that would have gone with that position. There are no savings to this government in doing that. The intent has always been to transfer over salaries, benefits and support dollars that go

along with those positions and programs, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the other area of support mechanisms in the communities, especially right now in my home community of Fort McPherson, they are going through a crisis where a young man was murdered. The whole community is grieving over the matter in which they are trying to deal with it the best they can with the limited resources. Before we had specialists in the community who worked within the Tl'oondih Healing Society to assist, especially in areas such as this case, where a violent crime was committed. There were two young people in jail because of it. It is not only going to affect one family but a whole community.

There has to be more understanding from the government as to how communities are having to cope with these efforts with limited human resources in allowing the communities to have specialists or organizations to assist in dealing with programs when you are talking about addictions, alcohol, drugs, violence or child development programs. There has been an attempt by myself, along with the Minister, through a motion I passed last year in committee of the whole, commitments by the Premier, the Minister of Finance and Mr. Ng. Is there a way the government can deal directly with the communities versus having to deal through the regional health board which seems to be where the bottleneck problem is, where resources are not really flowing directly to communities? It seems to be held up, where you have to go through another bureaucracy to get approvals or to get anything done, you have to submit reports. Is there a way they can streamline that so they deal directly with the department?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will comment on the two matters, the honourable Member brought up. For situations where you have a crisis situation in the community for whatever reasons, traumatic experience that impacts the whole community, there

are resources available. Again, it is not at every community level. Certainly to support the caregivers in the community, there are going to be regional resources, whether it is in the form of psychologists, suicide prevention specialists, alcohol or drug specialists, whatever they hold at a regional level to provide some of those supports for those types of incidents which require broader and more specific involvement in some of the counselling, debriefing and support issues for communities.

On the matter of streamlining the process for communities to access funds for programs and proposals that are submitted, I quite frankly, cannot see how it could work more effectively and be more streamlined if we were to try to do that as a government versus through a board. The board is there and right in the region. The communities have representation directly on the board, the CEO and senior staff are a lot more accessible to communities in the area they serve. This was the whole problem our Health Canada System is having with a centralized headquarters and having all the decisions come to a central point and being backlogged based on the volumes and resources not being as readily accessible. I would be really hesitant to go back toward that type of a system. Our philosophy, Mr. Chairman, has been to push out the decision-making authority, resources, financial and human resources to the regional level because we feel it would be more appropriate and a lot more responsive to our communities by having that type of structure, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is exactly why we should find another way of dealing with this. The Tl'ooondih Healing Society submitted four proposals to the health board. The first three they submitted, they did not even get a reply on. Finally, the fourth proposal they came forth with, we had to go directly to yourself as the Minister. Only then, something was done. If that is the avenue we have to take to get anything out of the health board, why is it you say that is the avenue we use, with no support whatsoever from the health board that is supposed to be there to assist the communities in which they make efforts to develop proposals and put forth to these boards. Who are they keeping this money for, themselves? What are they doing with it if they are not giving it to the communities?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Page 1112

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the honourable Member did meet with myself along with Mr. Alexi and had outlined to me the issue he speaks of. There were, as I understand, some proposals that were submitted to the regional board of which there has not been a response. I have no explanation for that. I committed to the Member and I still commit to the Member that we will find out from the board on what happened with those proposals. In respect to the last issue, the fourth one he mentions that did happen to be approved. I did not know that had been the case. He had mentioned the proposal had been in there but I had not received a status report. It was late last week that we did meet. Mr. Chairman, I have made a commitment that we will find out from the board the status of the three proposals, the delay in the response to those proposals and advise him. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Community Health Programs. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A couple of years ago I put a motion forth in support of the Tl'ooondih Healing Society which was passed through committee of the whole in regard to ensuring the long-term viability of the program. Nothing really has been done. At this time, Mr. Chairman, I would like to move a motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. If you have a motion ready, proceed, Mr. Krutko.

Committee Motion 24-13(5): Recommendation to Provide Additional Financial Support to the Tl'ooondih Healing Society

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I move that the committee recommends the Minister of Health and Social Services provide additional financial support to the Tl'ooondih Healing Society. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

The motion is in order. The motion is being circulated to Members of this committee and has been translated into Inuktitut. To the motion. Question has been called. I do not have a quorum. I will ring the bell. The Chair recognizes a quorum, providing Members are seated. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

--Applause

Thank you. For those Members who were not here, we are on page 6-10. We are considering health and social services. Activity summary is Community Health Program, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$27.437 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Page 6-11. Community Health Programs, buildings and works, Fort Smith region, total region \$1.9 million. Mr. Erasmus and Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I seek unanimous consent to go back to page 6-10.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Erasmus is seeking unanimous consent to go back to page 6-10. Do we agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Go ahead, Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I greatly appreciate the indulgence of the Members. I will be very brief. I wanted to indicate the Minister for Municipal and Community Affairs has undertaken to spearhead a community development program. A development of a community development program would be a certificate or diploma program offered through the

college system. Part of the program, the course, would be to help community workers implement community wellness programs and dealing with community well-being including issues of abuse, violence, health promotion, early childhood intervention, mental health, addictions, public health and environmental health. Mr. Chairman, the course would include different individual courses that address various areas of community wellness such as this area I have just mentioned, community development. Would the Minister or his staff be willing to sit down to discuss with MACA, their involvement in helping to develop this particular course which, of course, a little bit of revenue would certainly be helpful in addition to discussing what should go in the courses?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, yes, we would certainly be more than receptive to become involved in development of that program. If we cannot find financial resources, of course we would be willing to contribute as well. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those are all my questions. Once again, my thanks to the Members for their indulgence. I wish to thank the Minister for his forthrightness. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Shall we go back to the community health programs? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Building and works, Fort Smith region, total region, \$1.9 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Building and works, Inuvik region, total region, \$200,000. Agreed? Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have one question under Fort Smith region. I had my hand up, Mr. Chairman, but you were busy looking at other matters in hand.

Page 1113

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I am advised by the Clerk, you had, indeed, your hand up. I did not recognize that. I will recognize you now under Fort Smith region. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the Minister indicate under capital where Trail Cross would be since he indicated yesterday there was money in the budget to do upgrades and such? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister?

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the bulk of the money is in this current fiscal and the intent would be to carry forward any work that was not completed by the end of this fiscal year. If there is any additional requirement, of course, for the 1998-99 year, we try to reprofile existing funds. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Are you satisfied, Mr. Miltenberger?

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Building and works, Fort Smith region, total region. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to find out about the renovation and addition for the Fort Simpson

Hospital entails. I recall the social program's committee had made certain recommendations in regard to the renovations, and I was wondering what would be entailed in the 1998-99 renovations?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the funds are to renovate the existing Fort Simpson Health Centre. I expanded, particularly, in respect of the long-term care needs for the residents there. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Fort Smith region, total region, \$1.9 million. Agreed? Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In prior years, cost in this area was \$1.798 million and this year is scheduled upcoming \$1.9 million for a total of, if you use future years, almost \$4 million. Is the prior year's cost part of that supplementary appropriation of \$1.055 million? Was that in there?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we did not receive any supplementary funding for this project, the total dollars for the Fort Simpson Health Centre. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Total region, Fort Smith region, building and works, \$1.9 million. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is this the handicapped facility, as well as, the hospital, reprofiling those dollars? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes it is.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Building and works, Fort Smith, total region, \$1.900 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Building and works, Inuvik, total region, \$200,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Building and works, Keewatin region, total region, \$270,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in the Minister's opening remarks, he referred to the situation in my community regarding the Arviat Health Centre and the fact it was delayed for the last number of years and the need to try to move it ahead. The Minister inferred that we are looking at design and construction for 1998-99. Can the Minister elaborate more on how he sees this taking place? What mechanism we are going to put in place to see this happens?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, typically the capital projects are three or four-year projects with design being one year, construction being one or two

years, depending upon the magnitude of the project finish of construction and warranty in the final year.

In this case of course, we have started the project. We are planning on starting the project with the funds for the design of the facility in this current fiscal year. Within the normal perimeters of our capital program, which is what we would do, and construct in the following 1999/2000 fiscal year with the bulk of the construction.

We are considering, under the P3 initiative, the possibility of having this facility brought on stream earlier. Of course, I cannot speak to the conclusion of that issue because it has not been concluded yet. I can say this is one of the projects that the Department of Health and Social Services has put forward for FMB consideration as a potential P3 project, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you. Mr. O'Brien.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the Minister tell us the timing on when we might expect to get an answer or final decision on which projects will move ahead under the P3?

Page 1114

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I cannot speak to that yet because it has not gone before the Financial Management Board. Though there are plans in the immediate future to put forward from what I understand from the chair of the Financial Management Board, that issue for discussion. This question is probably more appropriately answered by the chair of the Financial Management Board. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Mr. Chairman, I am sure the Minister is aware of how important and critical this facility is to my community and the need for it. I would just hope we can get this through Cabinet and to committee, so we can discuss the various items and make some decisions given the fact that we have a very small window of opportunity regarding construction in the Keewatin region and in particular my area. I hope we can do this as soon as possible. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. There was no direct question. Mr. Minister, do you wish to respond?

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would concur and fully agree with the Member. It is the intent to try, if at all possible to move as quickly as possible to address this issue. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Building and works, Keewatin region, total region, \$270,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Building and works, Kitikmeot region. Mr. Evaloarjuk.

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) Mr. Chairman, I know this is in your region, Mr. Chairman. However, under Kitikmeot, building and works, the health centre will be replaced. It is going to cost \$2.858 million. Is this health centre in Gjoa Haven to be replaced, it is an old building? What year was this building constructed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (Translation ends)

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Gjoa Haven Health Centre that is being replaced was occupied, I believe, in 1970. The budget amount for Gjoa Haven is actually \$488,000. The honourable Member has skipped down to the total building and

works for all the regions under this category, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Building, Kitikmeot, total region, \$488,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Total building and works, \$2,858 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Acquisition of equipment, total region, \$300,000. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Could the Minister tell me exactly what this district health system technology is?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, these are x-ray machines and other types of diagnostic type of equipment that can tie into the digital communications network that is being worked on right now. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. In other words, smart medicine. Thank you. Total acquisition of equipment, total region, \$300,000. Agreed? Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the Minister tell me where these machines are going to be located?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, primarily Inuvik and Iqaluit because that is where the pilot projects for the telemedicine projects are taking place. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total acquisition of equipment, \$300,000. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Does that break down to a 50/50 split for \$150,000 that is going to be spent in Inuvik and \$150,000 in Iqaluit?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, it is broken out as it stands right now because specific items have not been identified and finalized yet. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Total acquisition of equipment, \$300,000. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are there any plans to put similar systems in the smaller, more isolated communities?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Depending on how viable it would be. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, yes, there is but on a longer term basis. Obviously, if it can be proven that telemedicine is an effective and efficient way of supporting some of our health care system, then it will be expanded based on that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total acquisition of equipment, \$300,000. Agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

Page 1115

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Contributions, headquarters. Next page, total region, \$1.850 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Evaloarjuk.

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) Mr. Chairman, there is \$800,000 and \$350,000. Is there \$1.850 million because it is only \$1.150 million? I wonder why the total is not the same? The total from \$800,000 to \$350,000? There is \$800,000 on renovations and the community wellness program is \$350,000. Where does the total come from? (Translation ends)

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

(Translation) Mr. Evaloarjuk, we are on page 6-12, but if you turn back to page 6-11, there is another \$700,000 in there. Do you understand this? (Translation ends)

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman, yes. Under Community Wellness Programs, I think they do a very good job in the communities dealing with wellness, but I am not really sure who does the Community Wellness Program. I am in favour of those people, but what kinds of community wellness are we talking about? Can the Minister tell me, what types of programs you are carrying under community wellness and what kinds of programs are those? (Translation ends)

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

(Translation) Thank you. Mr. Minister. (Translation ends)

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, under the category of the Community Wellness Program some of the criteria or programs will be eligible for capital planning. Under this, would be things typically like upgrades of family violence shelters, provision of

some equipment that are part of preventive programs such as screening or audiology equipment. Those type of matters, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Contributions, headquarters. Starts on page 6-11 and onto page 6-12, total region, headquarters, \$1.815 million. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the equipment, there have been a lot of statements made in regard to some sort of a mammogram machine in the Northwest Territories. What is that \$700,000, under equipment, for?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, these are the funds that are used to replace existing equipment in our health facilities throughout the Northwest Territories, to advise Members for distribution of all the various territorial components under this category. This is when the boards sit down with the department and put together their requirements and requests. They try to reach a consensus on what equipment to replace. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Can the Minister clarify where about that is in the budget? You mentioned boards. Is it part of this budget, where we can make recommendations or pass a motion directing yourself to tell the boards it might be a good idea that they consolidate their funds to purchase a mammograph machine for the whole Northwest Territories?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Your microphone was off when you were concluding. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I asked the Minister if he can identify where, in the budget we can make a

motion or identify funds that might be used to purchase a mammogram machine for the Northwest Territories and directing the health board to consolidate their funds for such a purchase? Where in the budget can we do that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

I do not know if the Minister can advise. Mr. Minister, your response.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Obviously, Mr. Chairman, it would be up to the Member to put forward any motions. This would be the appropriate area in respect to equipment for boards. I want to clarify, he does not direct, he recommends. Again, I will say, Mr. Chairman, he can recommend all he wants, it is still going to be, ultimately, up to the boards and what they see as their priorities. If they have x-ray machines that are broken down and they to be replaced, and they see that as a higher priority than a new piece of equipment, I would support that decision, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

I was not too clear on the Minister's response in regard to we can pass all the motions the world and it does not mean anything. What is this process for that we are going through, if the whole idea of passing motions is to give the department direction, so they can take forth these recommendations to the boards and make them aware of the concerns we have in this House? As Members of this Legislature, this is one of our priorities. Why does he feel he will not be able to do that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome recommendations from this House and from Members of this House. What I was suggesting, Mr. Chairman, is we will put forward the recommendations when they come. What I am saying is, the boards know best and what their equipment needs are. It would be taken into strong consideration before we signed off and finalized what their capital expenditure would be,

in respect to equipment and replacement. What I was suggesting is, if they have deficient equipment and they want it replaced as a priority. If it is a basic piece of equipment they require to function on a day-to-day basis, then it would take priority over a new piece of equipment that may not be as readily or deemed as high a priority of need, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Can the Minister be more precise in exactly

Page 1116

what that \$700,000 is for? He mentioned it was for various equipment. Can he pin it down? Is it for x-ray machines, flood lights, elevators?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it is not identified yet. I think I have alluded to the fact that the boards come together and have their priority lists and we go over it with them and try to identify what the priority needs are within each region. We then allocate according to those priorities, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Contribution headquarters, total region, \$1.850 million. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I will try to ask this question again, if I can get an answer for it. I have asked it three times and I still have not received an answer. Can the Minister tell me exactly what the \$700,000 is going to be spent on and what type of equipment it is going to be used for?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Krutko, I believe the Minister did answer the question. They do not know exactly what the breakdown is. I believe the Minister did say they will work it out with the boards, but they did not identify it item by item which is the

understanding I have. The question was answered, unless you want to rephrase it somehow. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the Minister give us information on the breakdown of the \$700,000 in regard to this item?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Mr. Chairman, I do not have the specifics because, as I indicated, once the boards get together and put forward their lists with the department, we go over it. Generally, I can say the funds are for the acquisition of major high tech biomedical and general equipment to replace or upgrade existing equipment for use in hospitals, health centres, non-profit health oriented agencies or groups. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Total region, \$1.850 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Contributions, Inuvik region, total region, \$500,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Contributions, Baffin, total region, \$200,000. I have Mr. O'Brien and Mr. Picco. Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are all aware Mr. Picco has worked very hard and talked for many, many hours in this House about his hospital and the need for it. I am sure all the Members appreciate his efforts in that area. Will this hospital be able to perform fairly complicated surgeries and medical

treatments as you would find in southern Canada?
Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it would in respect of any services, that are currently provided at the Baffin Regional Hospital, would continue to be provided at the new facility. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will there be any increased services in relationship to surgery and other related treatments at this hospital or is it going to be status quo as to what they have now at the new hospital? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, not to our knowledge however, there is an operational plan being developed that we do not have as of yet. Until we see that and have had a chance to review it, we will not know what additional services may be being considered. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will there be any additions to doctors and medical staff required to operate this unit? You are saying it will offer the same level of services. Will there be any additional staff required?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the only thing we can envision happening is the possibility of some additional upgraded facilities that would be able to accommodate and enhance some of the specialist services that might be coming in to service the region. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Will there be a need to increase, in a significant fashion, the operating budget for this new facility as opposed to the old unit?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

No, Mr. Chairman. The intent is not to. In fact, if there were to be some savings, for whatever reasons, possibly as a result of having a more energy-efficient building. The expectation is that those savings would be put back into some of the programs of course and for us, from a GNWT funding perspective, to be generally cost neutral. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I realize this cost was located in Iqaluit and primarily will service the Baffin. Are there any plans to extend the service to cover any other areas

Page 1117

or any other regions in the east?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, not at this time. It has been clear. From my understanding, the people in the Keewatin and people in the Kitikmeot want to have services as close to home if at all possible, and

if not, to base it on their historic service areas where they receive their services, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The fact that we will spend approximately \$45 million on this new facility for the Baffin and approximately \$7 million or \$8 million in the other regions in east, how do you rationalize that expenditure given the fact that the population is somewhat greater in the Baffin but not to the point where you can quadruple your expenditures or your cost? Have you looked at this? My concern is not so much for the Baffin. All the power to them. I am more concerned about the Keewatin and, of course, our neighbours in the Kitikmeot.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I look forward to a motion recommending maybe a fairer reallocation of this \$44 million, to other areas of Nunavut, but having said that, Mr. Chairman, this just basically was a holding figure that had been put in the budget and carried forward from past budgets. The facility in Iqaluit, we are looking primarily at a \$25 million figure as a base for the new facility. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Total region, \$200,000. Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Mr. Chairman, I do not know if I can support to have the funds reduced for the Baffin, but I could certainly support having the funds increased for the Keewatin and the Kitikmeot in relationship to our smaller cottage hospitals we are proposing. My last question is, and Mr. Picco brought this up before and I do not think we got an answer on it, we are curious as to the name. Is it true that it is going to be named the Edward Waldo Picco Memorial Hospital? Also, what colour will the hospital be? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not have the answers for that right now, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Total region, \$200,000. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we had enough leeway on this project. Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Chairman, my question concerns the program cost schedule. This was an agreement signed by the federal government with the territorial government back in 1988. Because 85 percent of the population of the Baffin region is aboriginal, then the federal government would pick up 85 percent of the renovation or replacement cost. The cost to this government, as we can see in the budget, is only \$200,000 in the project itself. I understand the P3 initiative would be the one that would be used for this and the Inuvik facility. This has to be clarified and on the record.

Following up on that, Mr. Chairman, my question to the Minister is, some type of confirmation on the negotiations that are ongoing and have been occurring for quite a lengthy time with our partner, the federal government. How much money would the federal government be contributing to the Inuvik and the Iqaluit facilities? We have not pegged that down in any substantive terms yet. Mr. St. Germaine is there, who seems to be the lead negotiator for our Department of Health and Mr. Ramsden. I would like to find out what the federal contribution to this project is and again, it is 85 percent covered by the federal government on the renovation and replacement originally. Of course, the reason for this is if we find out what the federal contributions are which is a grant, then we can subtract that from any type of leveraging we would have to do under the Private/Public Partnership arrangement and thus, lowering the exposure of lease payments as that type of financing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, once again, for the honourable Member's benefit, in the 1988 health transfer agreement, there was an agreement for renovation, I say again, renovation of the Iqaluit Hospital, not a new facility. We have made a commitment though, to work toward a new hospital and that is what we continue to work on. I am happy to update the Member on some of the negotiations because after he had raised the issue in the House last week, I spoke to Mr. Warren St. Germaine, who is our lead official in our negotiations. There has been an agreement in principle reached and is at the Department of Justice for their review of wording and the parameters around that agreement.

Again, I am not at liberty to disclose the amount at this time until we can initial off on it, but we think it is adequate. Of course, there are a few outstanding issues that I had indicated. Mr. Ross Leader, who is the Health Canada lead negotiator is coming into town, I understand, this Friday. They are going to be sitting down and once again trying to resolve any outstanding issues, so we will be able to sign off on this, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, that is good news, we have reached some conclusion and closure on the negotiations and we have an AIP in place which needs to be checked by the Justice Department. I wonder if the Minister, once that has been done, would be able to maybe meet with the Baffin Caucus, so we are aware of the date, timing of the agreement and the dollars available? I have had calls on it, and I am sure some of my colleagues probably have also. With that, I thank the Minister, Mr. St. Germaine and Mr. Ramsden for their work on this file. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Ng, do you

Page 1118

wish to respond?

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, Mr. Chairman, I can commit as soon as possible once we resolve these

issues. I will advise the Baffin members and the Nunavut Caucus and all Members.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Total region, \$200,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister had mentioned earlier, and I would like some clarification on this \$44 million, that is identified in the book was probably more like \$22 million. Did I understand him correctly? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I used the figure of \$25 million, I believe. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I take it that figure came about since the preparation of this documentation here then, the \$25 million as opposed to the \$44 million that is identified?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$25 million came about as a result of some preliminary estimates we undertook and put forward, I believe it was this past summer or early spring. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am more confused now. Were these documents printed after the negotiations where the figures were on to \$25 million now? Are these documents that are in front of us for the present budget printed before we received the \$25 million? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, basically, yes. We had a figure, but the public disclosure and the discussions with the Baffin board at that time had been ongoing. We could have gone back and changed this figure, but we chose to continue on. It was not, we thought, a big issue. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wondered whether it was a big figure or not. I think it was a reasonably sized figure but not a big concern right now and the question of when in the future years anticipated, on this particular project, when is the \$25 million going to be required? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it were the regular capital planning cycle and we were paying for it totally within this government, we would have to cash flow the project over a number of years depending on construction fees. But certainly, the bulk of the money would not start until the substantive construction started in the year that it would have happened. As it stands now, because we are looking at the possibility of doing it under the P3 those are the capital requirements of this government, in that respect and will not be as significant. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Mr. Ng. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would relay the same question to each of these projects. If you use the P3, does the Minister anticipate financing would be much easier to get? Would this be required either way, next year or the year after even if it goes P3 or regular GNWT construction? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, with projects of this type of size and magnitude, it would not be expected that any significant draw would be required until, at the earliest, 1999, and subsequent years to that, I believe, under either financing method. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Final question in that area. Would that apply to all these projects that have future years anticipated the money would not be required during the construction of 1999, which would be, hopefully, June or July? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, Mr. Chairman, the Member is correct.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Total region, \$200 thousand. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Mr. Erasmus. I want to remind Members that if you want to be recognized, you should be seated in your chairs. If there is someone else there,

I know that is hard to make it possible, but we should have some form of order in the House. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$3.340 million, which is indicated as prior year's cost, was that all in one year or was that all last year? How was the money spent?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, no, it is not all in one year. It is the carry forward amount and actually of that \$3.3 million we have \$2.1 million that is going to

Page 1119

be carried forward into 1998-99 capital estimates. That is why there is only \$200,000 in there this year. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

No, that is fine, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Total region, \$200,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Agreed. Thank you. Contributions, Keewatin region, total region, \$200,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Contributions, Kitikmeot region, total region, \$200,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Total contributions, \$2.95 million. Mr. Roland.

Committee Motion 25-13(5): To Ensure That Hospitals and Health Care Centres Proceed as Scheduled

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the area of these projects and capital, we have heard much discussion on all the health centres and the two hospitals and the reference to P3, the committee prepared a motion and I would be prepared to read it now.

I move that the committee recommends that the department ensure that these projects proceed as scheduled and review all hospitals and health care centres as possible candidates for Private/Public Partnerships funding in the upcoming years should that initiative receive approval from this Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Roland. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to move a motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Is your motion prepared?

MR. KRUTKO:

Yes. I move that this committee recommends that the Minister of Health and Social Services purchase a mammogram machine for the people of the Northwest Territories.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. We need to have the motion in writing and translated. Are you prepared to stand down on the motion until we finish this particular activity? Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

No, I am not going to stand down. I would like the motion dealt with now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. We will then take a break and have the motion in writing and translated.

--Break

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

I call the committee back to order. I will ask Mr. Krutko to please repeat his motion.

Committee Motion: 26-13(5) Purchase of a Mammogram Machine for the People of the NWT

MR. KRUTKO:

I move that this committee recommends that the Minister of Health and Social Services purchase a mammogram machine for the people of the Northwest Territories.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. To the motion. Question has been called. I do not recognize a quorum. I recognize a quorum. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

--Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

We were on contributions, total contributions, \$2.95 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Total activity, \$6.108 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. For the record, we are on Bill 8, Appropriation Act, 1998-99, Department of Health and Social Services, details of grants and contributions,

page 6-13, contributions, total Contributions is on page 6-14, \$176.614 million. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 6-13, Community Wellness Programs, I have been contacted by the Yellowknife Metis Council and they have indicated that for the past couple of years they have been attempting to acquire Community Wellness Program funding which apparently goes to the city of Yellowknife. The Metis Council has not apparently received any of this funding whatsoever. They have informed me that if they were in any other community, they would be classified similar to a government because they have the Metis locals. They are wondering if there is any way they can be allocated funding directly without having to go through the City of Yellowknife similar to how other municipal governments receive their funding. As I said, they are looking for an assurance that they will be able to receive money. Could the Minister make some type of commitment to ensure the Yellowknife Metis actually do receive some money and they are not sitting on the outside looking in as they have in the past couple of years? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Erasmus, could you be specific which particular item you are

Page 1120

speaking to?

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had indicated that it is page 6-13 under Community Wellness Programs.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I cannot make that commitment at this time because of the fact that the Community Wellness Programs here are more specific for organizations and municipalities that are providing direct services in one form or another.

The honourable Member brings up a good point. I know the issue he refers to is the community action plan where we had some discretionary dollars, but

that plan, as you know, we took out of commission as a result of some of our budget reduction measures in this current year's budget. Community action plan was a poll that was accessible to communities for a wide variety of general community wellness initiatives, as you know. That fund, unfortunately, is not available anymore. What we do try to do, of course, is stress as much involvement of all aboriginal groups and as broad a base as possible in some of the planning initiatives. For example, in the city of Yellowknife, there is, I understand, on the Yellowknife council working committee on Health and Social Services representation from the Metis Nation as well as other broader groups, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That brings up another problem, the fact that the Metis Nation has been mentioned here as being on this particular group the Minister was referring to. They do not represent the Yellowknife Metis Council or the North Slave Metis Alliance. Apparently, there are some areas of this government that are not recognizing that fact. Other than that, if this money is not for distribution as the past community action plan was, is this already designated for specific groups and programs then?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, firstly I would like to apologize to the Member when I spoke of the Metis Nation. I was incorrect. I have been informed it is the Metis Local involved with the Yellowknife working group, just to clarify that for the record. Mr. Chairman, on the Community Wellness Programs, as I said, it is more for specific programs being offered from organizations. I do not have the specifics for this year yet, but if I can use last year's, for example, some of the groups that have funding under this category, it was NWT Family Services, the Council for Disabled Persons, the Dene Cultural Institute, the Mental Health Association, the Seniors' Society Survivors and CNIB. Those are the organizations that received some form of funding under this category last year. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does that mean this money is already designated for specific programs, services or is that money available for people to apply to receive money?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, not all of it but certainly a bulk of it in the respect that from what we understand, some core funding for some of these organizations, and of course, others depending on the level of services being provided through a contribution or a service contract arrangement. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does that mean there is a bit of money available then for someone if they have a proposal that they can bring forward and perhaps get some money for a program?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, there is a possibility that there may be funds available, not necessarily under this category. A lot would depend on what proposals are submitted in respect of what service might be contemplated to be provided. We can give consideration at that time trying to support the initiatives that could be truly beneficial. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 6-14 under contributions to boards of management, child welfare, I believe the Standing Committee on Social Programs had recommended there are changes made so that

relatives of foster children could actually receive some funding for looking after those children. In the past, relatives would not receive any funding, but if a total stranger took in a child, they would receive funding. Has there been anything done to resolve this situation?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, there has not been an outright change in the schedule, but there have been exceptions made on a case-by-case basis depending on what the circumstances are surrounding the children and the family members, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Erasmus, you have 20 seconds.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What would the department consider family or family members? How close do they have to be?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

I will ask Mr. Ramsden to speak to this, Mr. Chairman.

Page 1121

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Ramsden.

MR. RAMSDEN:

Mr. Chairman, we have not completed work in this area. It is a very difficult area because the concern we have that we make common sense or practical decisions to avoid the kinds of circumstances the Member speaks of. At the same time, we need to have some sense of an ability to manage those kinds of expenditures. If I recall correctly, the examples that have crossed my desk in the recent past are dealing with aunts, uncles and grandparents. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ramsden. I now recognize Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, under boards of management I brought up an issue of the funding through all the boards in the territories. I would like to know if the Inuvik Regional Health Board has been funded in consideration of Cabinet decisions. Has it been recognized, because, in the past, when we first got here, we were all told that each board would have to take a ten percent reduction? I would like to know if these outstanding issues were taken into account when the amount reductions were given or in the amounts that are given out to the health board. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, if the honourable Member is referring to the impact of other reductions from other departments, then no, it would not have been taken into consideration in respect to the health care reductions that took place. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the Minister have available with him what the boards of management receive throughout all the regions? Can he provide that information, because it is not here in the document? For example, if you look at distribution of budget, you do not have the grants and contributions listed for each region.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would be more than willing to provide that information. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

As well, Mr. Chairman, if you are going to provide that information, I am specifically referring now to the Inuvik Regional Health Board and the added cost of medical travel in certain situations. I would like to know if that was addressed in the developing of the budgets.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

I will ask Mr. Ramsden to respond to that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Mr. Ramsden.

MR. RAMSDEN:

Mr. Chairman, in respect to last year, there were two kinds of adjustments for the Inuvik Regional Health Board. We made some changes in terms of the global allocation of medical travel dollars and then we made a separate adjustment for the Inuvik Regional Health Board to accommodate their need to send people at a greater rate outside their region because of the closure of the alcohol and drug facility. There was a positive adjustment to accommodate that change. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ramsden. I have total contributions, \$176.614 million. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question falls in line with Mr. Erasmus' questions and concerns because I have the same concern in regard to the way aboriginal organizations are being treated, in light of this government establishing, as one of areas as priorities, that we do recognize aboriginal self-government. We do recognize the uniqueness of aboriginal groups and what role they have to play in the north, but when it comes to delivering programs on behalf of this government, they seem to not fit in the category as one of the levels of government that presently is being recognized elsewhere.

I would like to ask the Minister, is there any attempt to consider looking at the policy regarding the way aboriginal organizations are being allowed to deliver programs on behalf of their membership and also exactly what class do they fit in? You have no problems giving it to municipalities, towns and villages, but when it comes to the large aboriginal centres, such as Yellowknife, where you have one of the largest aboriginal communities in the Northwest Territories, there seems to be a real problem with delivering programs solely on the groups or organizations that an individual may be recognized as, Metis, Dene or Inuit. I would like to ask the Minister, are they considering revising the policy in light of the stand that this government is taking toward aboriginal people and how we recognize them as a unique and fundamental level of government in the Northwest Territories.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Krutko, could you indicate to me which particular item you were addressing the question on?

MR. KRUTKO:

All of them, especially community empowerment and community wellness.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, there is nothing to stop a band or aboriginal organization from providing services. It is the matter of what service they are proposing to provide and if that were the case, then where would be the appropriate funding that we could provide for them. Having said that, I go back once again to the boards, their autonomy and the makeup of the boards themselves, the trustees and I certainly think they are reflective of the aboriginal constituents that they represent. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it is a

question of large urban centres such as Inuvik, Hay River and Fort Smith, where basically you have a large aboriginal population which consists of three different groups. You might have the Inuvialuit, the Gwich'in, the Dogrib and other groups within large centres, but I think that clients who the municipality serves and the programs that are delivered for aboriginal people, especially when you talk about the whole motion of healing people and trying to be self-sufficient and improving the lives of people, it seems like it is always the aboriginal people who are the ones who find themselves at the bottom of the list in regard to how they are able to take responsibilities for themselves. We are always putting the onus on the government to do things, but when aboriginal organizations ask to take on these responsibilities, they are always put in the notion, well, we know what is best for you and basically, we will do it with the government structure that is in place. There is also another level of government structure that has been in communities since the treaties were signed, which are aboriginal bands, Metis locals, Inuit organizations have been here, in some cases, hundreds of years. Yet, we do not today, recognize those groups as an institution in regard to how they are able to govern themselves. Yet the federal government is able to give them millions of dollars to run programs and services from the federal government, no problem at all. When it comes to this government, it seems like it is the last group that they can trust to do anything for themselves. Yet, they will pour the money into the municipalities, but when it comes to aboriginal groups, they seem to have the toughest time to get any money to deliver programs on behalf of their membership. With those comments, is there a policy in place that streamlines exactly what role this government, is there a different policy for every department or is it the same policy right through this government? That flows right from the Premier's office to the Executive to Cabinet and then into this Legislature. Why in one group they have no problem dealing with aboriginal groups and yet through another group, like this department, it seems like it is a can do where they cannot do it. They already have a regime in place, but they will not recognize aboriginal institutions. Is there a policy that will streamline this so that they are recognized in all departments?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess, Mr. Chairman, I would beg to differ with the honourable Member again. If we use his area, his constituencies and your own, Mr. Chairman, where we have direct involvement of the aboriginal groups that run the programs, the health and social services program. Again, I go back to the Gwich'in Tribal Council representative is on the board, there is an Inuvialuit corporation representative on the board, there is a Sahtu secretariat representative on the board, a chair at large and the other two are representatives of the two larger municipalities of Inuvik and Norman Wells. The aboriginal groups sit on the trustees and they determine the policies for the programs and the delivery of health and social services for their constituents in Inuvik/Sahtu area, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. If the Members agree, after we are done with this particular department, there is not much left, we would take a short break. I have Mr. Krutko and Mr. Erasmus on total contributions, grants. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know the Minister keeps referring to the board member that the Gwich'in put on there. If he knows exactly how a lot of us feel about the board member that represents the Gwich'in on that board, so basically for him to use that as the excuse, oh well, you guys are involved, so basically you know what is best. I think everybody knows that any institution of that size is usually run by the executive director and headquarters in Yellowknife who basically call the shots. When it comes to delivering programs and services like community wellness, income support programs, I use the example of the Tl'oondih Program which they had a program that was recognized by the federal government in which they were allocated a million dollars and they were credible to the federal government's eyes of delivering a program. Then, when it comes to this government, because it is an aboriginal institution, they do not support that initiative. Yet they are pouring millions of dollars into government institutions and basically the cost of program delivery on that side.

The aboriginal groups are now looking at negotiating self-government and trying to find ways of getting out

of this colonial attitude of this government so that they do not have to be dictated to for the rest of their lives and be more self-sufficient and independent. Yet, that is exactly the attitude that this department has toward aboriginal people. I think that it is time that they gave some of those responsibilities to the aboriginal groups who are presently in the process of starting to negotiate self-government agreements to take on these responsibilities now and not wait until after the conclusion of those negotiations.

I think that is exactly why communities are suggesting pulling away from this style of government and going it on their own. They feel that they are getting more support in regard to the federal government and recognition of their rights as aboriginal people in this country. Yet, from this government's perspective, that I have, is they do not feel sincere that these people are able to take care of themselves. Until that attitude changes in regard to this department and allowing the aboriginal people to identify those problem areas, allow them the resources and the ability to take on those responsibilities, it is going to happen sooner or later, especially in my region, in which there is a self-government process. The more problems we see in regard to this department and how they treat the communities and the aboriginal people in the communities makes it that much easier to go it on their own.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Krutko, your time was up quite a while ago.

MR. KRUTKO:

I would like to ask the Minister, is it possible that an aboriginal group like the Gwich'in can deliver these programs and services by themselves without going through municipalities?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I believe the Gwich'in has a significant say, as I indicated, just

Page 1123

based on the make up of the Inuvik Regional Health and Special Services Board. It is unfortunate that the Member does not have the full confidence in the Gwich'in representative. Obviously, it is not for me to

say whether that person is supported or responsible or not in carrying out their duties. It is only the Gwich'in who he or she represents who can ultimately decide whether the individual is doing an adequate job or not. There are provisions there for revocations and for reappointments. It happens all the time in various boards and people who represent communities, for whatever reason, step down or deemed not to have the confidence of the people they are supposed to represent. It is an ongoing process with respect to the make up of the boards and the representatives who are on those boards. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 6-14 again, under contributions to boards of management in the area of child welfare, the response to one of my questions of what is considered family was, I believe, aunts, uncles and grandparents. If I am correct, this would mean they would not normally receive funding to look after a child. Is that correct?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Ramsden.

MR. RAMSDEN:

Mr. Chairman, I have to beg your indulgence and have the question repeated.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ramsden. I directed the question toward you because it was your response the Member was asking the question to. Mr. Erasmus, do you want to repeat your question?

MR. ERASMUS:

Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had previously asked in the area of foster parents and foster children, what does the department consider family who would not normally be paid to look after a foster child. I believe the reply was aunts, uncles and grandparents. I just wanted to clarify that was the actual situation. They would not normally receive funding to look after a niece a nephew, a grandson or a grand daughter, but yet a complete stranger would receive funding to do that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Ramsden.

MR. RAMSDEN:

Mr. Chairman, one of the key foundation points that the department, families and society in the NWT are built upon is the immediate family of children has primary responsibility to support their children. It is clearly both the expectation, the need and obviously the most valued approach, that extended family pitches in to help. The normal process is very much that the extended family would help support children without the government actually contributing directly to that. However, given the discussion we had with the committee and given the practicality of the advice we got from the committee, we agreed that we would at least look to exceptions until such time as we could formulate or restate a policy. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ramsden. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Who decides when this exception should occur?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Ramsden.

MR. RAMSDEN:

Mr. Chairman, I can only speak to those issues that actually get to me. I can well imagine there are ongoing decisions made at the desks of CEOs or executive directors of the various boards all the time. Certainly, in our view, the exceptions that I speak to are ones that I deal within consultation with the superintendent of child welfare.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ramsden. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Mr. Chairman, what I would like to know is, have all the people who deal with these matters been informed that there can be exceptions? If people do not know there can be exceptions, they probably even would not bring the matter forward.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Ramsden.

MR. RAMSDEN:

Mr. Chairman, it is my view that the broad approach, the principles and the constraints that we feel are on the system are all part of the development, training and education of workers in the system. I think we have signalled clearly that there is an avenue to consider practical issues. I think the awareness is fairly and evenly distributed through the system. The very fact that I stress toward exception means that we turn down applications as exceptions all the time because we do not feel they need to proceed. There are alternatives. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ramsden. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Was there some sort of a directive, a memo or a letter written and sent out to all the people who deal with foster children so they know there could be an exception and which also indicates what factors to consider in the event there is a family member who is available to look after a child?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Ramsden.

MR. RAMSDEN:

I am not aware of a specific memo, letter or directive. I know that has been the subject of discussions between our departmental representatives and board representatives, but I am not directly aware of a memo or a directive.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ramsden. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Mr. Chairman, was every board represented at those discussions?

Page 1124

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Ramsden.

MR. RAMSDEN:

I do not know the answer to that, Mr. Chairman. I know every board was invited. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ramsden. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason I asked, of course, if every board was there is because there was an indication that this information has been clearly signalled and evenly distributed. If every board was not there, then it has not been evenly distributed. If every representative was not at that particular discussion even if they were at the meeting, then it has not been evenly distributed. If there is not a piece of paper that has gone to everyone, then I do not believe it has been evenly distributed either. What types of factors are looking at when the department decides if there should be an exception and that a family member would be financially assisted in looking after a foster child?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Ramsden.

MR. RAMSDEN:

Mr. Chairman, the people involved in trying to manage the needs of the children would have discussions with the extended family. There has to be a judgement made as to whether that extended family is capable or if there would be undue hardship if they were asked to bear the cost of time, energy and money to support these people. In addition to that and maybe the most practical thing to do if we were to try to meet the needs of a child who might be caught up in something here, is if the Member could, at some other venue, give me some details and we can look into it. But I believe we have communicated to people our willingness to take a practical view, to be flexible and ensure we keep the best interests of children in need, front and centre with us. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ramsden. Mr. Erasmus, you have 28 seconds.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is very difficult to determine how well they have received this information. All I have heard is that board members

were told in discussions. Were they all at one big conference or just board members in separate discussions? That is the problem. It is difficult to ascertain to what extent people have actually been informed. Can we get just a bit more information in that area, Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Ramsden.

MR. RAMSDEN:

Mr. Chairman, I would be pleased to discuss this matter with my staff and provide an elaboration of their view of the kinds of material or documentation that was used to support this discussion, where it was, the time of day and the frequency of perhaps phone communication that may have gone on further to that to help support or elaborate on our willingness to be flexible. We can certainly provide that back to the Member and the committee.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ramsden, total contributions, \$176.614 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in regard to my concern with aboriginal groups not being able to deliver programs and services on behalf of their membership, I would like to move a motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Do you have your motion prepared?

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that the Minister of Health and Social Services review all policies of the Department of Health and Social Services to ensure that the aboriginal groups can deliver programs on behalf of their membership.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. I will not ask you to stand down because that is the last item under this particular activity. In consideration that we have to have the motion typed and translated, I think we should take our afternoon break and return. By that time, the motion will be ready. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

We have a motion by the Member from Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko. Would you read your motion again, Mr. Krutko?

Committee Motion 27-13(5): Recommendation to Ensure Aboriginal Organizations Can Deliver Health Programs

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee recommends that the Minister of Health and Social Services review all Health and Social Services Departmental policies to ensure aboriginal groups can deliver programs on behalf of their membership.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Krutko, do you wish to speak to your motion?

MR. KRUTKO:

Mr. Chairman, I would like a recorded vote, please.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. There is no quorum. I will ring the bell. I recognize a quorum and call the committee to order. We have a motion on the floor and the Member from Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko requests a recorded vote on his motion. I will request Members to stand. Question has been called. All those in favour of the motion? Please stand.

DEPUTY CLERK (Mr. Schauerte):

Mr. Krutko, Mr. Rabesca, Mr. Erasmus, Mr. Evaloarjuk and Mr.

Page 1125

Picco.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. All those opposed?

DEPUTY CLERK (Mr. Schauerte):

Mr. Roland.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

All those abstaining?

DEPUTY CLERK (Mr. Schauerte):

Mr. Miltenberger, Mr. Ng, Ms. Thompson, Mr. Antoine, Mr. Kakfwi and Mrs. Groenewegen.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. The motion is carried with five in favour, one against, and six abstentions. We will go back to activity summary on page 6-14, total contributions of grants and contributions, \$176.614 million. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 6-14, contributions to boards and management, child welfare. There was an indication I would have some information as to how the boards were informed about exceptions to the families of foster children receiving remuneration for looking after them. There was an indication that the information I would receive would include such things as the time of day and things like that. Could that information also include the names of the persons who were informed and whether they were informed by phone or person-to-person? Mr. Chairman, perhaps it would be a little more easier on the staff if they would simply send a memo out to everybody who works in this area, not everybody of course, but to each of the areas, the boards. Simply send them a memo and indicate they are willing to take exceptions or allow exceptions and what factors or situations they would allow for those exceptions. That is all I want, Mr. Chairman, is for all the boards and the people working in this area to have the same information. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we will try to ascertain whether or not that has taken place, the issue of the written memo. If not, we certainly will carry that out to the boards, so they can pass that information on to all the child care workers throughout the territories. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to thank the Minister for his undertaking. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

No, it was just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Total contributions, \$176 million. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the contribution of boards and management, could the Minister tell me what the breakdown of the cost is to maintain and operate these boards? Are those the costs here? What is the costs of, say the Inuvik Regional Health Board or any other health board?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we have committed to providing all the board allocations in a previous commitment. The information should be in there. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the resource staff, the Minister has with him, do you have any ball park figures on what the rough estimate is on the costs to maintain and administer these boards?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, rather than speculate, I said I would find out exactly what the information was and provide it. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Does the Minister have any idea when he will have this information to us? Later today, tomorrow, next week?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will try to get it as early as possible, but more than likely, probably early next week is what I would anticipate. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Minister.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Total contributions, \$176.614 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Total grants and contributions, \$176.614 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Page 6-15, information item, active positions. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the Minister tell me how many aboriginal people does he have working in the managerial area of this department, especially in the senior managerial area? Has there been an increase or a decrease?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, at headquarters, 36 percent is affirmative action and of the management staff, four out of nine positions qualify under that category. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Krutko.

Page 1126

MR. KRUTKO:

Out of the four of nine aboriginal positions, what positions do they hold?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I do not have the exact positions here. We will commit to providing that information. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Active positions. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Out of the four positions, are they senior or people on the delivery side, in regard to finance or are they in regard to the policy end? Are they right at the senior level working along with the deputy minister or his assistants?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you. These management positions are managers, directors or above. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Active positions. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Boards and management on page 6-16. Information item, boards and management end on page 6-17. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a committee motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Go ahead, Mr. Miltenberger.

Committee Motion 28-13(5): Recommendation to Provide Fair and Equitable Access to Compassionate Travel

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee recommends that as part of the department's development of minimum standards and guidelines for the hospital and health boards, the issue of compassionate travel be addressed to ensure that criteria and guidelines provide for fair and equitable access.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Your motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. I do not recognize a quorum. I will ring the bell. We have a motion on the floor, and question has been called. All those in favour? Thank you. All those opposed? The motion is carried. Before I proceed any further, the Chair would appreciate it if Members would make some effort to be present in the committee so we can have a quorum when the motions are called, as well as for some sense of respect for the other Members

speaking. Boards of management, information item, page 6-16 and 6-17. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Active positions, boards of management, page 6-18, information item and 6-19. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Page 6-20, details of work performed on behalf of third party. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Total department, page 6-21, \$7.458 million. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the Minister give me an idea, out of the \$1 million, how much money we get from the federal government for the northern native alcohol and drug addition program?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. I presume you are referring to the item on page 6-21, stat contributions? Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. \$579,533. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Total department, \$7.458 million. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Can the Minister give me a breakdown in regard to the Brighter Futures and Building Healthy Communities Fund? How much do we get from the federal government for that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Mr. Chairman, the Brighter Futures Program is \$6 million on page 6-20, unless he is asking about the community or regional breakdowns. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If he can give me the regional breakdowns in communities?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Brighter Futures, by region, Baffin \$1,637,869; Deh Cho \$496,601; Beaufort Delta \$994,493; Keewatin \$993,117; Kitikmeot \$789,396; Sahtu \$336,301; Treaty 8 \$275,741; Yellowknife Treaty 11 \$546,482. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there a chance we can get a copy of that breakdown?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we will provide that information as well.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Total department, \$7.458 million. Agreed?

Page 1127

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Page 6-5, program summaries, health and social services, program summary, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$255.258 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Total Capital, \$6.108 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Total expenditures, \$261.366 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Does the committee agree the consideration of the department's estimates is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the Minister tell us how soon we can get the other information we were asking for in this department, before we conclude the overall budget, that we have that information?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. I did hear agree on total expenditures, so I presume the department is closed, but I will allow the Minister to respond.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as I indicated, we will try to get it as quickly as possible and hopefully the supplementary that is available we will provide. If it takes more work for other stuff, then we will provide that once that work is completed. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. I will ask again, does the committee agree that consideration of the department's estimate is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. I would like to thank the witnesses and the Minister. We will now move on to the next item. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

I would like to make a motion to report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. We have a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion is not debatable. Do I have a quorum? Yes, I have a quorum. All those in favour? All those opposed? Thank you. The motion is defeated. Could I have some direction? I believe we were supposed to move on to the Department of Transportation. I believe that was what the committee agreed to earlier. I will invite the Minister of Transportation, Mr. Antoine, with his opening comments.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you, Members of the committee. I am pleased to submit for your review today the Department of Transportation's main estimates for 1998-99. The department's total proposed budget for 1998-99 is \$86 million. This total includes an operations and maintenance budget of approximately \$56 million and a capital program of approximately \$30 million. The transportation budget for 1998-99 remains essentially the same as the past fiscal year.

The single greatest challenge for the department has been adjusting to the reduction in its funding base. The department met its overall budget targets this

year through large reductions in its capital program. This was a deliberate decision to maintain the existing levels of service that the public has come to expect of the transportation system in the day-to-day operations of our airports, highways and our ferries. Under the circumstances, I believe the decision to minimize the short-term impact on the transportation system was the best decision to make. However, as the comments from the Standing Committee on Resource Management and Development clearly recognize, the department's capital program does not support our aspirations for sustained economic growth and development in the long-term.

This is the larger context that I would ask the Members to keep in mind as we go through the department's budget in detail. We are in difficult times and they are not without their consequences. This budget does not let us do many of the things that we would like to do and that we know should be done.

With these few remarks, Mr. Chairman, I look forward to the Members' comments and questions. Mahsi, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Minister Antoine. I will now invite Mr. O'Brien on behalf of the Resource Management Committee for committee comments on the review of the departmental estimates. Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under transportation for the upcoming year, the Department of Transportation outlined a total proposed budget of \$86 million, \$56 million which is in operations and maintenance and \$30 million which is in capital estimates. This equals a total budget decrease of \$28 thousand in capital from the 1997-98 budget. In addition, the department plans to cut two positions, reducing from 330 to 328 positions. The standing committee expressed concern about the number of pilot projects within the department.

The committee is concerned about the additional costs these projects will incur, such as the expenses involved in the start of a pilot project, and questions where the department will find available funds to carry out the necessary negotiations with the communities. The committee Members would like to review any new pilot projects that the department may initiate in the future.

Keewatin Marine Resupply Strategy remains a concern. The government announced recently that this controversial strategy will be delayed for the life of this government. The committee

Page 1128

supports this decision but does not agree with some of the actions of the department before the decision was made. Committee Members are of the view that the government did not comply with the spirit and the intent of the recommendations of the Keewatin Marine Resupply Steering Committee.

When the government released the statement of its intension to delay the Keewatin Marine Resupply Strategy, committee Members felt statements made about the substantial cost savings were not fair and did not represent a balanced account of the facts. No substantiation was provided as an explanation of these cost savings. Members were concerned about the governments paternalistic attitude in the distribution of this information. Mr. Chairman, I will now ask my colleague to continue on.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. Mr. Rabesca, do you wish to continue?

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee Members noted that NAV Canada has increased its rates which will affect northern airlines' costs and will invariably be passed to the consumer. Members expressed concern about these increases to airline costs and their effect on the residents of the NWT. The Members requested to be kept up to date on any further fee schedule changes that may occur. The standing committee is also concerned about the air navigation services this private company provides. Unlike our southern counterparts, local flight services are not an alternative to other transportation services, they are essential. The committee wants assurance that the safety of the pilots and passengers are not compromised.

Department officials emphasized the lack of funding available to build a new infrastructure and explained that they are exploring options with the private sector to determine the interest level for joint ventures. Members welcome the idea of joint ventures but emphasized that where a joint venture is approved in relations to transportation, the Minister of

Transportation must maintain clear authority. Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask my colleagues to read the other part of the presentation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

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

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will conclude the report on Transportation from the Standing Committee on Resource Management and Development. The privatization of the motor vehicle division has resulted in an increased cost to obtain a licence. The increase arises from service charges and the goods and services tax. Members want the government to ensure the privatization of services will not mean an increased cost to consumers for obtaining these services. Members noted the danger that the increased charges ensuing from the privatization of the motor vehicles division may set an unwelcome precedent for other privatization initiatives.

Committee members were concerned about the transfer of airports in the Keewatin region and were advised that the transfer of airports in the Keewatin region is a pilot project. Members are interested in the outcome of this community empowerment initiative and look forward to determining its results. The standing committee notes that the department has provided responses to all information requests outstanding at the conclusion of the committee review. That concludes the report on Transportation for the Standing Committee on Resource Management and Development and the review of the 1998-99 main estimates, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Would the Minister like to bring in witnesses?

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Would the Sergeant-at-Arms bring in the witnesses and seat them please? Could I have the Minister introduce his witnesses please?

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, to my right I have Mr. Ron Williams, the deputy minister for the Department of Transportation; to my immediate left is Masood Hassan, the director of planning; on the other side of him is Mr. Doug Howard, the director of policy. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Welcome to the committee. I will now open the floor to general comments on the department's estimates. I have Mr. Ningark to start. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before I get to the core of my statement, I wanted to express the appreciation of the Minister and the department for giving us the air terminal building that was completed about a summer ago. Also, the surface upgrades of the runway in Pelly Bay. Mr. Chairman, the people in Pelly Bay expressed their appreciation when we had the opening of the air terminal building. Mr. Chairman, we also appreciate the fact that the Minister and the department give the community, on a yearly basis, a small, minimal amount of money to construct the access road to hunting areas. The particular access road I am talking about will have, in a matter of speaking, facilitated hunting, recreation and tourism, even though it is not completed yet. I believe it is about half way to its designated point. Mr. Chairman, I hope the Minister and the department will continue to provide funding, although it is minimal, but every little amount that could be given to the community's use for something is worthwhile. People have talked to me about this access road which is not completed yet, especially people who are not able to travel on the rough terrain, like the elders, the handicapped, children, women, et cetera.

Mr. Chairman, another point I would like to bring up to the Minister, I am sure his officials are aware of. I do not know if the Minister is aware of this concern in Pelly Bay which has been on the table for many years now, as long as I was the SAO, that is over ten years ago, is the location of the tank farm. The concern has been safety, environment. The tank farm is situated very close to a couple of garages, and it is also very

close to where the kids hang around the arena and it is very close to the health centre. I am sure the Minister and his officials are aware of this concern which has been on the table for many years now. I do not think I have anything else at this time to get the Minister's attention, but I wanted to get the assurance that the Minister will try and continue funding the much needed access road which is being built in Pelly Bay. We receive about \$10,000 a year. We have done that for about five or six years now, but it is not completed yet, so this is one area of concern that the people in the community, young people, elders, hunters, trappers, women and so on, are very keenly aware of. They would like to see this concluded sometime in the near future, perhaps this year or next year. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. I have Mr. Roland next.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As many are aware and other Members have brought up, the situation in the Mackenzie Delta, as well as the rest of the territories when it comes to roads and transportation initiatives. We have heard many times that we cannot secure the funding to the amount those projects spell out. Though, I am happy to hear the Minister say he would be looking at different ways of trying to address the issue in a much slower way in looking at different initiatives of trying to get something moving in this area. Specifically in Inuvik, the Inuvik/Tuktoyaktuk highway section was, I believe the amount initially showed a \$160 million plan and a joint committee of the town of Inuvik and the Tuktoyaktuk council, along with their consultant, looked at the plan. Their report states they can do this in the area of \$40 million. That is the level of a service road, not to the level of the Dempster Highway, for example, knowing that this government is hopefully looking new initiatives and new ways of driving these projects.

As I said earlier, if we can put people to work, we would end up lowering the impact on the government when it comes to social programs. I see highways and the building of highways as a good initiative that would drop the costs related to this government in other areas, as well as bringing in new dollars in the area of tourism. This is an initiative that we need to focus on and look at. I am sure there are many reports done by this government in other communities

and so on when it comes to, as we call, the tire traffic or the tourists coming up and down the highways of the Northwest Territories. Although, in some cases there is the economic weighing of these projects seems low, we need to be looking at the other affects of putting people to work and creating employment and creating a tax base from people being at work instead of being on income support, as well as in the area of reducing the demand for, as I said earlier, government assistance or social assistance. There are many initiatives and ways to look at these projects. If we could learn a lesson out of the pages from the eastern and maritime provinces and how they work and set up their projects. Not all people are in favour of those programs, but I think that is an initiative which can be looked at. If there was some success in it, it would definitely reduce the impact on our budget if we can work those models into our transportation strategy.

Many people in the territories have heard this discussion. This has gone on and on for many years and the possibility of going on for many more. Until we actually start putting some plans into action, we will continue to speak about it, but hopefully with the commitment from the department and the Minister, we can actually start putting some plans together and start seeing some initiatives happen in the near future. I would encourage the department to continue looking at these initiatives and new ways of doing these programs and trying to put people to work. We have the labour force available and we have a lot of people willing to invest in some of these ways of doing things, whether it is training or equipment. If they know this government would commit to a process, whether it is 5, 10, 15, 20 or more years. As I said in one of my Members' statements that I believe this is an area where it can be looked at as a job strategy. I believe many people would look at this as a positive venture.

I can recall in the days of the Dempster Highway, even though it was not complete, many people used to drive to the end of where the highway was just to say they were there. I can remember as a young child going with my parents from Inuvik out on the Dempster to where the road ended and we would have a picnic there. Although many people look at something as not being valuable until it is complete, I think this, as an initiative, would draw more people in the area of tourism and interest amongst northerners.

I would support the Minister and whatever I could do to try to help out and create some sort of initiative to proceed with this. I think it is a good thing. Just a

simple way of putting things, I think we heard the amount the Premier, when he responded to me in the area of \$900 million, but that is an extreme number when you look at it, especially when our yearly budget is just over a billion dollars. If you spread it out over more years, it becomes achievable when you break it down to many more. Although my counterpart from Thebacha figures we can do a million dollars a year, I think we could probably do more than that. It is an initiative which needs to be focused on. Although, he says, \$9 million a year, it would be 100 years. We can do better than that. For example, in the Fort Smith region there is something in the area of \$16 million. If we can keep a number like that on the books on a yearly basis and work up the value or start from each community along the way, we would put people to work and take them off income support lines. If they had enough time, maybe the federal government would be paying for their off season, so to speak. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I have Mr. Ootes. We are on Transportation, general comments. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Part of our discussion during the review of the business plans for the department concentrated on the area of the reductions for this particular department. It goes along in the same vein as my honourable colleague from Inuvik, Mr. Roland, just mentioned, we do need job creation but at the same time it benefits the territory as a whole.

One of the areas of tremendous concern that I have expressed several times with this particular department and with the Department of Renewable Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, is the fact they have been cut back. I realize that

Page 1130

we have had to bring our budget in line and had to cut the deficit. In my opinion, the cuts in these departments results in further unemployment, which results in people having the need of going onto the safety net in the territories, which in essence, increases our costs, which in some ways is unproductive. There needs to be support and I emphasized this to the Minister to pass along to his cabinet colleagues, to ensure these two departments, specifically Transportation and RWED, need more

money. And why? It is because they can enter into projects that will benefit the territory as a whole. Job creation, like Mr. Roland said, you improve the highway system, you also increase tourism. It is extremely important, in my mind, to have those kinds of initiatives developed in the territories. We need the highway from Rae to Yellowknife improved. It is in terrible shape. It is prone to accidents. It is a stretch of highway, where if we could concentrate some funds in that area in the next couple of years, we could definitely improve our tourism. Secondly, the spinoff benefit is the trucking industry, the residents of this area and to everybody. At the same time, we are creating jobs.

The concern I have is with that whole area, Mr. Chairman, the fact that we keep peering at these departments, but if we are not careful, the social envelope area is going to go from 65 percent to 70 percent to 75 percent. I realize we have need in those areas. I am not trying to denigrate those needs. What I am saying is, we also have needs in a department that is a job-creating type of department. That has to be kept in mind by all Members of the Legislative Assembly. It certainly has to be kept in mind in formulating the budget. I would strongly urge the Minister for next year, with these budgets, that have basically been put together which we are here to review the efficiency and allocation of the total budget. Next year, I will want the Minister to push for more money into this particular department. I can see nothing but good coming out of that. Those are my comments, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Considering Transportation. We are in the general comments. Are there further general comments? Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, just some short comments on the Department of Transportation. Over the past several months, I have had an opportunity to meet with the Minister on various constituency issues. The Minister has always been available. He has had staff at the meetings and any time I have sent E-mails or letter requests to the Minister and his staff, they always respond. So I thank the Minister for that.

The breakwater project in my community, under the Transportation budget, has been a very important one. It is ongoing. There was a concern when the

mayor and deputy mayor met with the Minister before Christmas, trying to prioritize some other breakwater projects within the community, hopefully moving them up into the capital budget. We were not able to accomplish that. We will be asking today to seek assistance from the Minister to try to get them at least in the five-year capital plan, because they are not there now.

Later on today, I will have an opportunity to ask the Minister if he is aware of these developments and the department?

On the access road that Mr. Ningark and some other Members have spoken about before, we did try to get some access road money into my community because we have never accessed any money for several years. We are looking at a small sum of about \$40,000. We were not successful and I have not seen it again in the five-year capital plan. I will be asking the Minister and his staff if that can be advanced into the five-year capital plan?

Under cold weather testing, we have had some success over the past two years in Iqaluit, using the airport for cold weather testing. Last week we had a meeting, myself and the president of the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation, about more aspects of cold weather testing. I think this is a good news story. It has pumped, over the past two years, more than a million dollars into the economy. All new money, like Mr. Roland spoke about this morning. New money coming in. So that is a good thing. I am hoping to get some more information from the department, if they can help us look at cold weather testing. How we can market our airport?

On a different matter, is the NAV Canada. NAV Canada has won a large contract I would assume. I understand it was the largest privately financed deal of any company in Canada. They have taken over the operations of the air guidance systems across the country. There have been some concerns from airline carriers with the rates that they have been charging. Of course that comes back into the pocket books of the residents. In the eastern Arctic, as you know, Mr. Chairman, we do not have access to roads. All we can do is fly things in or wait for the annual sealift. We are in a unique situation that needs to be addressed when these types of issues come forward. I know I wrote the Minister of Transportation sometime late last year on the NAV Canada rate increases and the Minister again responded very quickly and indeed had been lobbying, I understand NAV Canada, on this issue. It is a concern for the

Government of the Northwest Territories. Later today, when we get that line item, I will be asking some questions on NAV Canada and their rates they have been charging. With that, that is my opening comment on the Department of Transportation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Page 1131

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

I thank you, Mr. Picco. General comments. Mr. Evaloarjuk.

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a general comment, if I could. I know that the Department of Transportation is not in a business of dealing with or regulating the private airlines. With us living in the high Arctic and in regard to the price of freight that is sent to those remote communities, such as mine, the Pond Inlet people have been asking for an airstrip so they can get a larger freighter airline into their community. First Air goes from Ottawa and Montreal to the eastern communities into the Baffin region. They are the only airlines that service our communities. Using this as an example, I heard recently that if I ordered a skidoo from Montreal to Pond Inlet, it would cost in the neighbourhood of about so much a kilo. If I order from Montreal to Nanisivik, the same skidoo that weights the same weight would be half the freight I would have been charged. That is the reason why they would like to get a larger airstrip. This way would be cheaper. We just have First Air. That is the only airline we have that comes from Montreal, Iqaluit and from Iqaluit a 748 goes to those smaller communities. From Iqaluit to the rest of the communities, the smaller airlines go to those smaller communities. It is pretty far from Iqaluit to those smaller communities and the freight they charge, is a lot more. For that reason they have been wondering if they would be able to get an airstrip, so they could have larger aircraft taking those freights to the other smaller communities. They feel it would be a lot cheaper. I have been told it would be cheaper.

I just want the Minister and his officials to consider that request and Pond Inlet does not have sealift facilities as well. I mentioned before, Pond Inlet does not have a cove, an inlet or a bay for the ships to be able to port there. Freight is getting very expensive, especially when they are using a small aircraft. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (Translation ends)

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Evaloarjuk. Do you want to go into detail? Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I do not recognize a quorum in the House across the floor.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Picco, when you talk about a quorum in this House you are speaking for the entire room. I will ring the bell on your behalf. The Chair recognizes a quorum. Do you want to go into quorum now? Thank you. 1998-99 Main Estimates, transportation activity summary, corporate services, operations and maintenance. Total operations and maintenance, \$8.141 million. Agreed? Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Mr. Chairman, if I may ask you to consider asking the Minister if he would be willing to respond to the general comments?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you for reminding me. I would like to ask the Minister if he wishes to respond to the general comments made by Members who made their comments? Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I will go according to the speakers who came forward and make general responses to some of the general comments. First of all, Mr. Chairman, you were the first one to make a comment. I would like to say that on behalf of the department it has been a pleasure working with you and your community over the years. There are concerns, especially in Pelly Bay. You mentioned an access road to the hunting area. We are prepared to continue looking at that community. We work pretty well with the community in putting forward projects, so they will be looking at it favourably.

Regarding the location of the tank farm, I am told the department is aware of this concern. It is in conjunction between this department and public works, of which I wear that hat as well, those two departments will be consulting with each other over this matter. Thank you.

The honourable Member from Inuvik, Mr. Roland, has been expressing over the last few days in this House and today specifically, on building roads where there are a lot of training opportunities and the creation of employment, and the spin off effects that it has whenever you have a project in a community and in a region. We are very well aware this government is pursuing a new initiative called the Public/Private Partnerships arrangement. We call it the P3. The Inuvik/Tuktoyaktuk proposal is also a candidate for that initiative. The P3 process has not been finalized, but it is a prime candidate for that process and in this way, I just want to mention that it will create jobs and employment in that area.

I will move on generally to Mr. Ootes concern in reduction to this department. The department had taken quite a big hit in the last two years and initially we did not feel the effects of it. It has been two years since we had the first introduction to the reductions. The department is beginning to feel the strain in the amount of reductions that have come to this department. We are coping with it internally as best we can. I agree with the honourable Member, Mr. Ootes, that whenever there are cut backs in departments such as Department of Transportation, it has a ripple effect into businesses. We provide a lot of contracts and once we cut back on projects it certainly has affected business in the community. Thus, the spinoffs to creation of jobs and so forth and it is felt in the communities in terms of the reduction in opportunities for employment. We are very much aware of this in the department.

We need to improve the highway system. The road between Rae and Yellowknife is going ahead. It is also a candidate for the P3, but according to the way we had planned it, it is a ten-year project that we are looking at. If it is successful with the P3 process then, that timeframe might be shortened. This coming summer we plan to do 15 kilometres of reconstruction on the road. We will start at both ends. Fifteen kilometres of it, initially, is approved through the House. Fifteen kilometres on the Rae side and ten kilometres on the Yellowknife side. Together, we will have 25 kilometres of reconstruction, which should create employment opportunities as well as fix the road. I just wanted to say that I use that road quite a bit. I drive to my constituents in Fort Simpson. Not this past weekend, but the weekend before, I travelled on it. Although it is an older road, I just want to commend the staff who did the work on it, that they have kept the road, even though the condition it is in, they

maintained it to the best of their abilities under the conditions they have had. I would like to commend the staff who worked on it.

Mr. Picco is going to ask a lot of questions later on, according to him. Thanks for the heads up as we go through the different activities in this department. We worked fairly well with the municipality of Iqaluit, the MLA and the leaders there. One of the areas mentioned was on the breakwater project. It is an ongoing concern. We are going to be finishing off, next year, one of the projects there and then we will look at the bigger project this year for an ongoing process.

NAV Canada is an overall problem that we all have in the north. We have lobbied hard, along with air carriers and different political leaders in the north about increases that they plan to impose on us shortly. I think we were able to make some changes before that plan went ahead. We will see how, April 1st, they are planning to implement the first increases to their rates for the larger aircrafts for passengers as well as cargo. At the same time, they are reducing the ATT, there will be an increase, but there will also be a decrease in the tax. They might cancel each other out, but we do not know until we see that. There is another increase that is coming November 1st for the smaller aircrafts. We have to lobby hard, as well, to make sure they take into consideration the northern location and distance we have to travel by aircraft. Aircrafts in many cases are the sole mode of transportation in the north of which they have to take into consideration. There has to be more public consultation. I believe there are scheduled consultations regarding smaller aircraft which is coming up shortly and throughout the summer.

For the honourable Member, on Pond Inlet, we are aware they have been requesting an extension of their airport. This department has received numerous requests from a lot of communities and the MLAs on an extension to their airports. We do not have that kind of money in our budget. What we did do was initiate a study to be done to see how many of these airports, how many requests there are and how we are going to do it should we have the funds. There is a study that is ongoing at this point in time. This department will be looking at Pond Inlet for shipping, wharfs and docks. This summer we will be going into the community and looking at possible sites for wharf and docking improvements in the community.

Mr. Chairman, these are brief responses to the comments that were made.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Page 10-6, 1998-99 main estimates, transportation, corporate services, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$8.141 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Page 10-7, airports, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$24.975 million. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, my question is in regard to airports and in relation to services available to the public. In particular, I know the Minister is well aware of the concern that I have as it relates to the availability of aviation gas in the small communities in my riding. I know the Minister has been working on this particular concern. He has the pleasure of riding in an aircraft with five-litre cans of gas in the back, so I know he is aware of the concern. My question is, is the department seriously considering whether or not they can have aviation gas made available in the smaller communities to serve the general public? Mr. Chairman, if I could elaborate a little bit, I believe that this type of service available would increase the public access to the smaller communities. In particular I know that even my home community of Tuktoyaktuk does not have airplane fuel available other than turbo fuel, so I am again bringing this up to the Minister. I want to know if he is prepared to respond to this particular concern I have.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the supply of aviation gas in the isolated communities is really the responsibility of Public Works and Services, but I work pretty closely with that department now. This aviation gas is a lead-based aviation fuel and it is used primarily by piston driven aircraft, the smaller aircrafts like the Beavers, the Cessnas and the Otters.

The use of this fuel is starting to diminish but it is still being used quite a bit in the north and at the same time this aviation fuel has a very limited shelf life. It does not last long if you let it sit around.

There has been some demand but it has not been that great and with the short shelf life it results in a lot of fuel that goes off specification. It has to be disposed of once that happens because it is lead based and the cost of disposal is quite significant. There are concerns and we would like to re-examine the options of supplying aviation gas into these communities and I would like to do a final report with recommendations by the end of April. We should have a report on exactly how we are going to do it, but we are looking into this matter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and I thank the Minister for that response. The other concern I have Mr. Chairman is in regard to resurfacing of runways and I am a bit concerned with the Minister's opening statement whereby the department is cutting back on capital in order to meet the budget. I am, as well as Mr. Ootes and everyone else, concerned about the amount of cutbacks this department has had to live with and still maintain safe airports and highways. That is my question. I am wondering how many more cutbacks can this department have without jeopardizing the existing transportation facilities we have? In particular, at this time, I am referring to airports. I know it has been a long time since those airports have been resurfaced and I am wondering whether or not the department has a plan in the future that are not identified in this particular budget, but if they have plans in the future to resurface the runways in my particular region?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Antoine.

Page 1133

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the department's goal is to maintain our existing infrastructure with the resources that we have. This is the first priority of the department and in the case of

the airports we have a good runway resurfacing program which is not shown under capital because it is under operations and maintenance, so we do have a substantial and very good runway and resurfacing program. That is why you do not see where we take the program out of in the main estimates. Referring to your constituents, yes, we are going to be initiating resurfacing in Sachs Harbour over the next two years and we are going to be initiating that in Holman Island as well. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My other question, Mr. Chairman, is in regard to CARS servicing available in the communities. Does the department at this time see any cutbacks in hours for CARS in my communities?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, no, we do not anticipate any cutbacks in the CARS Program and the hours. It is a five-year program and we had negotiated almost all of them last October. It is for five years starting last October that they are in so we do not foresee any cutbacks in their hours. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. You have a couple of seconds. Do you want to take them, Mr. Steen?

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I will donate them to the next guy.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Krutko, you are given a couple of seconds to go beyond the normal. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Steen. In regard to airports, the community of Tsiigehtchic has concerns because they do not have an emergency airport,

especially during break up and freeze up. They have written to the Minister to see if there is a possibility of looking at some funds that they can use working along with the department to look at the possibility of identifying an area to establish an emergency airport. In the communities there are times of year when they cannot get out and when they are isolated because of the breakup and the freeze up. Has the Minister done any work in this area in regard to the request from the community of Tsiigehtchic?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the request from the community of Tsiigehtchic and the MLAs, I have instructed the department to see what the possibilities are and with the resources that we have. We do not have it in the program because of the lack of resources. I am told that there is, although it is not what the requesters want in times of the break up, the location of the community in certain times of the year in freeze up and in break up they are isolated. I understand the concern, a helipad that is there in case of an emergency that could be utilized. At the present time, because of lack of funding, we do not have any plans to do any major planning for putting in any type of emergency strip. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the Minister tell me out of the 52 communities which ones in the territories do not have airports?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, there are some communities in the north that do not have airports. Besides Tsiigehtchic, there is Rae-Edzo, and there are some smaller ones like Kakisa and Enterprise. If he wants complete details I will do research and give all the details. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Out of these communities, Mr. Chairman, which ones are isolated or restricted from access in or out of their communities because of the highway network because of the break up and freeze up which will effect the community's ability to get in and out in case of an emergency.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, there are other smaller communities like in the Kitikmeot area like Bay Chimo that are also isolated on a permanent basis and Tsiigehtchic is isolated during freeze up and break up.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the Minister or the department, willing to go into the community of Tsiigehtchic and sit down and discuss this issue with them to see if they can come to a way of resolving this issue by working out some alternative? I do not think we are asking for a permanent airport, but we are asking to identify an area where they can use a piece of road or a piece of cut line for an emergency if it came to a point where you had to get a plane in there to get someone out. The only ability they have right now is trying to land on the ice when it is just after freeze up or after break up, but that is dangerous because you do not know what the conditions of the ice are. Will the Minister assist the community by holding a meeting to discuss this issue with the community so they can try to identify a solution to the problem?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we were planning to go up into the Delta area sometime after this session finishes, Mr. Chairman. We will be in the vicinity and

we will make that trip to Tsiigehtchic to meet with them about this. Thank you.

Page 1134

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Are you saying that the sooner we finish the sooner you will go there? Thank you. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Could I have the Minister write a letter to Tsiigehtchic just saying what he stated here so they are aware that they will be coming in to discuss this issue, so I do not have to draft up another motion? It is just about ready to go but if there is no need for it I will pass on that one.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we will write a letter.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Corporate services. I have Mr. Henry. Sorry, Airport page 10-7, transportation airports. Mr. Henry is on the list.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Following up on Mr. Krutko's question. Does the department have any guidelines or policies at which they will consider putting a runway or a strip into a community? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have a standard document called Capital Standards and Criteria. That is what we use. Under there it deals with airports as well.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the Capital Standards and Criteria, what communities in the territories do not have airports that are eligible for them, or strips? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The short answer is that according to the Capital Standards and Criteria, if I understand the question correctly, I believe there are no communities at the present time under the Capital Standards and Criteria. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the Minister advise me what criteria were used to consider Rae-Edzo for an airstrip? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

I do say that the criteria that were used are that if there is an airport within three hours driving on the highway system, then it does not warrant an airport. This is the condition that the department has been using in regard to Rae-Edzo.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Mr. Chairman, I thank the Minister for that. I will ask him if Rae-Edzo did not require an airport because of being within three hours of another airport or a community, I am not sure exactly what the Minister is saying, can he tell me how Rae-Edzo meets any criteria to begin construction of an airport? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the community of Rae-Edzo is building an airport on their own community initiative. They approached us for funding and we told them we did not have any, so they went ahead and started building their own airport with their own funding, I think there is some from the federal government. We provided them with technical advice and support. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Going on to the Yellowknife airport, I have heard concerns about the availability or potential lack of availability of lots at the Yellowknife airport. Can the Minister give me some information regarding the number of lots that would be available for construction and what planning is in place to provide additional lots, if there is a shortage? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, since this government had taken over the Yellowknife airport from the federal government, we have been assessing the airport operations and looking at the availability of lots. As a result of that, there is a Yellowknife Airport Development Plan that is going out for request for proposals shortly. This one will have a real comprehensive look at the airport and develop a plan on how to deal with the concerns that the honourable Member is mentioning here. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I missed the beginning of the Minister's statement and he may have addressed it, but I would ask him if he could again identify, are there any lots available right now for development

where a developer would have access to runways? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Mr. Minister. Mr. Williams.

MR. WILLIAMS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are no lots available at this specific time. We have to recognize that there are a lot of vacant industrial lots in the Kam Lake Industrial Park, so the department is working a bit with the city of Yellowknife to try and minimize the disruption there so the types of businesses that we would hope would relocate into this expanded airport properties, on basically the FOL side of the airport which are the airport specific type businesses, is what we hope to attract. I guess the other part of that is that the prices that we are going to be renting these lots for will be market-based so there will be no perceived advantage to being out there. It will cost you the same to locate in other parts of

Page 1135

Yellowknife and we are using the industrial lots along the Old Airport Road which are the highest priced industrial land in Yellowknife, as the basis of the market for that land out there. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When will the Minister foresee having some lots available? I am kind of shocked that there is not some availability of land for airport related activities. We have a responsibility as a government, if they are going to maintain control of these particular areas such as airports, we have a responsibility to ensure that there are facilities, or at least developed land available for the airport related activities. With the potentials for the airport related activities coming out of the diamond mines, it is imperative that immediate steps are taken to ensure that there are some lots available for construction there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, there is land around the Yellowknife airport and those lots that were available within the last year have been all leased out. There are preliminary plans already drawn up by the department of how they foresee expanding availability of lots in the Yellowknife airport, however, we would like to do it in a coordinated approach. As I said, there is a request for a proposal that is going out very shortly and we do not foresee it to take very long before we do have an approved version of the plan for Yellowknife. I do not know how long it is going to take, but we do not see it being that long. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Airports. I have Mr. Picco on the list.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, under airports, the department states that it has the responsibility and provision for maintenance and operation, the rehabilitation and upgrading of all 52 public airports in the Northwest Territories. Why is it then that when we had a problem, for example, the navigational aids in Iqaluit, that the department could not do anything about it? We had to get NAV Canada to fly in from Ottawa with a special plane to do that. It is the case now then, indeed, all the operations and maintenance of navigation aids and so on, at airports, is the responsibility of NAV Canada and not the Department of Transportation? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Perhaps this has to do with regulations. Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you. Yes, all these NAV Canada aids are the responsibility of NAV Canada now. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

On the airports issue, I talked earlier about the ERS situation. I wonder if the Minister and staff have an update on the ERS situation and the discussions that occurred in Ottawa and the placement of the 28 airports under the National Airport Policy. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As we have made Members quite aware, there are two initiatives ongoing right now with regard to ERS at smaller airports in Canada. The first one is a working group studying the requirement for ERS at smaller airports and that working group is meeting, I believe as we speak, in Ottawa. The second initiative is undertaken by the federal Minister of Transport who has commissioned a risk management and assessment expert who is conducting an independent review of ERS requirements at all Canadian airports. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Airports, Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, does the Government of the Northwest Territories have any representatives at this meeting in Ottawa concerning the ERS issue? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Mr. Minister. Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the department has representatives on both the working groups. MACA has a representative on the working group through their EMO office and the fire marshal's office and will be meeting with the federal transport Minister's emergency response service, Dr. Gross, who is a US consultant on this. We will be meeting with him next week and we have representatives going down to speak with him.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand the position of the Government of the Northwest Territories on the ERS issue is that if the federal government regulates

that ERS is needed in Iqaluit, Inuvik or Norman Wells because of their small airport study, the territorial government because, they do not have the money to put that service back in, for example in Iqaluit, it would cost, I think, \$400,000 last year, the territorial government then would not be able to afford it. They would move that the federal government would pick up the cost. Could the government tell us at this time what their position is at this meeting? If Iqaluit, as an example, at the end of this meeting was found that they should have ERS at the airport, what is the position of the government? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you. The approach we are taking is that first of all we would like to determine if there is a need for ERS at the airports in the Northwest Territories that might be determined to require them again. Once we determine the need, we will then start looking at how and try to determine how we are going to pay for them. This is the first approach and second approach. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the

Page 1136

reason why ERS had been pulled out of Norman Wells, Iqaluit, Inuvik and Rankin Inlet, I believe, was because it did not fall under federal regulations. When the department did the Avery-Cooper Report last year, which was quite a detailed report on the ERS, that was the main motivating factor at that time. They had fallen outside the regulations. If the regulations call for Iqaluit and other airports to be put back into the ERS, then is the Minister indicating that, indeed, they would follow that regulation because they would have to. That money would have to be found somewhere within the budget or within the fiscal framework of this government. If that is the case, because there is no new money, would they be going to the federal government to ask for additional funds to cover off those costs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you. Once we know if the requirement is there for ERS in these communities, which the honourable Member mentioned is, was in the neighbourhood of \$400,000, if we do not have it in our budget then we will have to figure out a way to put it in. It would be good if it came from the federal government, which is the first step, but if it does not then we will have to find a way of getting it from within the system or finding a different way to do it. Maybe we have to approach carriers as well. This is some ways down the line. First of all, we would like to determine the need. It is going to take a few months before that happens. Once that is done, we will take the next step.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Will the Minister be providing Members of this House some information and overview on what is transpiring right now in the meetings in Ottawa and what has been discussed? If there are any decisions to be made, will the Minister commit at this time to update the House and the Members to those discussions? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Yes, Mr. Chairman, I will update the House, and if it is not sitting I will update the Members on the outcome of these meetings. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Airports. Anybody else who has not spoken yet? Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, before my time ran out the Minister had mentioned that there were lots that were going to be developed for use at the airport. Can the Minister tell me how many lots they are looking at

developing and to what degree will they be serviced?
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, at the present time the plans show that we are estimating that approximately four times as many lots as existing in the area are slated for the phase development. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The second part of that is, to what degree will they be serviced? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, these lots will have roads, there will be power, telephone and trucked water. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will they also be tied into the propane service that is available to most of the other lots at the airport?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Mr. Chairman, at this time we are saying that they will most likely not be connected to the propane pipe service. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Final question on that, Mr. Chairman. Will they be inside the security of the airport?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I am wondering if the Minister has the plan. Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Yes, it will be inside the secure fence. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Are you all right on that, Mr. Henry?

MR. HENRY:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Airports. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a quick question. All this talk of airports, what is this going to cost to develop these and get them ready for leasing?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Yes, it is kind of early to say, Mr. Chairman, because it is going out for request for proposal. We laid out some proposed plan and whichever company is successful at putting the best request for proposal forward will do the work. We will determine from there how much it is going to cost. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is this work expected to be done in this fiscal year, 1998-99, and if so, where is it in the budget?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

The funding is coming from the other operations and maintenance for the work for putting the plan

Page 1137

together. Once the plan is in place we are estimating that some lots will be available as early as this summer. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Airports. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What else is included in the other operations and maintenance that you have here of \$17 million?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the other operations and maintenance in this area at \$17.089 million is coming from all the airport operations, such as travel and transporting of materials, purchase of service, utilities, contract services, fees and payments. There are minor equipment and other expenses. That is a total for all the airports, other operations and maintenance. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Airports, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is no clear amount spelled out. You said there are other costs involved. You named a few that are for all the airports within the territory. How much would be available out of this \$17 million for the work that would be going on here at the Yellowknife airport? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do not know how much the work at the Yellowknife airport is going to be to do the plan. We are still waiting for a proposal. We are estimating in between \$50,000 and \$100,000. Just for clarification on that \$17.089 million, the largest part of it is contract services at about \$11.69 million for contracts for services that we have at the airports. There are utilities of \$2.6 million, materials that have to be purchased for the airports, like gravel and so forth, is \$1.233 million. Then you have travel and transport, \$737,000, purchasing services, \$327,000 and so forth. Fees and payments and other expenses are minor, but the majority of this \$17 million is coming from the contract services. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Roland. On the list under airports, is there any Member who has not spoken yet on airports who wishes to speak? If not, I recognize Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, regarding the report from the resource committee. The committee was concerned regarding the transfer of airports in the Keewatin region, especially regarding the transfer in the Keewatin of which this is a pilot project. The Members are interested in exactly what the outcome of this community empowerment initiative is. Could the Minister update us on exactly what the status of this pilot project is today regarding airports?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The initiative, that the honourable Member is referring to, is the airport transfers and community empowerment in the Keewatin. The department is proposing to transfer the ownership and responsibility for the development of operations and maintenance of the airports to the individual communities who have an interest and demonstrated their capabilities and the capacity to assume the responsibility. The department has no discussions under way that would propose to transfer airports to regional entities at this time. The transfer of airports to communities has been stated the objective of the GNWT since 1974. It is only since 1991, when airports were transferred from the federal

to territorial government, that the transfer to communities was possible. We have been working with the interested communities toward agreements to transfer these airports and consistent with the community empowerment initiatives. We have involved communities in development operations and maintenance of the airports for 20 years now. The department has noticed significant additional effort and incurred virtually no new costs to bring in the possibility of community ownership to airports closer. Discussions about the airport transferred to local authorities have begun in all regions, except Baffin where no community has as yet shown interest. We will be pleased to provide more discussions with the community.

Negotiations on the Keewatin airport transfer have proceeded well, but there are still a number of issues that have to be resolved. The department and municipalities hope to come to an agreement fairly soon, before April 1, 1998. This may now be delayed somewhat pending resolution of some of the outstanding issues. Safety is one of the main concerns that we have, orderly transfer, capacity building. We hope that the remaining issues can be discussed with a community representative that has been going on. We had hoped to have discussed with some of the communities, with the workshop that just took place in Rankin Inlet. We would like to continue to try to reach an agreement with respect to some of the outstanding issues that I just mentioned. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Airports. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The big concern in regard to the committee was the whole safety factor and also the responsibility we did take on when we did agree to transfer airport authority from the federal government to the Government of the Northwest Territories and living up to those obligations we have with the federal government with the transfer of airports to this government. Those were the areas we had concerns on. With that, I would just like to ask the Minister if he can continue to keep the committee informed on whatever the results of this initiative are. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Mr. Chairman, we will keep the committee informed about the progress of this initiative. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. We are considering 1998-99 main estimates. Transportation, on page 10-7, activity summary, airport, operations and maintenance, total operations

Page 1138

and maintenance, \$24.975 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Page 10-8, detail capital, airports, building and works, headquarters, total region, \$416,000. Thank you. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the airport planning studies, is there any possibility that through those funds, they can also take into account the Tsiigehtchic request to consider looking at an airport with the money that is identified in the budget?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Headquarters. Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you. The airport planning studies are for that. We look at different airports and once we do decide, after the meeting in Tsiigehtchic that it is worth looking at then this is a possible place to find funding to do some planning. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I believe that is identified under the \$100,000 various, territorial, total region, \$416,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Buildings and works, Fort Smith region, total region, \$90,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Building and works, Baffin region, total region, \$3.242 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Building and works, Keewatin region, total region, \$885,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Next page, building and works, Kitikmeot, total region, \$1.487 million. Agreed? Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I believe over the summer, I received a note from the Minister saying \$200,000 was taken out of the Holman terminal building and used, I believe, in Cambridge Bay or somewhere. I wonder if that funding is going to be returned to Holman?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I note here, \$702,000 for Holman, but I note for prior years it is \$441,000. I believe we approved some \$800,000 last year in the Holman budget. What happened to it?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in the previous year, \$941,000 was approved and because the project did not go ahead last year, \$500,000 was taken out of it. Last year it was only \$202,000 for this current year, together it adds up and we transferred that money. We added up \$500,000, \$202,000 and \$702,000. We just moved the money from last year to this year. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Building and works, Kitikmeot. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, what was the \$441,000 spent on?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, most of the \$441,000 will be transferred over, if it was not spent last year. The \$441,000 was not spent. Some of it was but most of it, \$320,000 of that, is still there. Some of it was used in planning and so forth. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not know if this is appropriate for this particular activity, but I am wondering what the \$500,000 was spent on that was taken out of Holman's budget?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the \$500,000 was spent on the Cambridge Bay airport.

Cambridge Bay is scheduled to do the project in two years, but because they are ahead of schedule and the project in Holman was delayed last year, we just swapped \$500,000 and sped up the fast track to get close to completion of the airport terminal building in Cambridge Bay. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Building and works, Kitikmeot, total region, \$1.487 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total building and works, \$6.45 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Acquisition of equipment, headquarters, total region, \$200,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Acquisition of equipment, Fort Smith region, total region, \$378,000. Agreed?

Page 1139

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Page 10-12, airport acquisition of equipment, Inuvik region, total region, \$428,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, what would \$280,000 represent in Fort Good Hope? What piece of equipment would that be?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you. It would be a new snowblower. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Acquisition of equipment, Inuvik region, total region, \$428,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Acquisition of equipment, Baffin region, total region, \$510,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Acquisition of equipment, Keewatin region, total region, \$115,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Page 10-13, acquisition of equipment, Kitikmeot, total region, \$391,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total acquisition of equipment, \$2.022 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Total activity, \$8.472 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Page 10-14, activity summary, highways, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$16.628 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Agreed. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could we get a breakdown of the other operations and maintenance of \$12.303 million?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the other operations and maintenance in highways, \$12.303 million; the majority of it is contract services, \$9.093 million; materials, \$1.649 million; utilities, \$888,000; purchased services, \$374,000; travel and transport, \$168,000; fees and payments, \$52,000; other expenses, \$20,000; minor equipment, \$59,000. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. With that, Mr. Minister, I thank you and the witnesses for appearing before the committee. I will now recognize the clock and report to the Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 8, Appropriation Act, 1998-99 and Committee Report 04-13(5) and would like to report progress with five motions being adopted. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Seconded by Mr. O'Brien. 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):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is a meeting of the Ordinary Members' Caucus at 11:00 a.m. tomorrow.

Orders of the day for Thursday, February 26, 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

Page 1140

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
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 8, Appropriation Act, 1998-99
 - Bill 11, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1997-98
 - Bill 14, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act
 - 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
 - Committee Report 06-13(5), Standing Committee on Government Operations, Report on the Review of the Report of the Auditor General to the NWT Legislative Assembly for the Year Ended March 31, 1996
 - 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 Thursday, February 26, 1998 at 1:30 p.m.

--ADJOURNMENT