



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

5th Session

Day 32

13th Assembly

HANSARD

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1998

Pages 1141 - 1175

Page numbers reflect printed Hansard

The Honourable **Samuel Gargan**, Speaker

MEMBERS PRESENT

Honourable Jim Antoine, Honourable Goo Arlooktoo, Mr. Barnabas, Honourable Charles Dent, 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, Mr. Miltenberger. Good afternoon. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Miltenberger.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement 327-13(5): GNWT Job Evaluation System

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to rise today to speak briefly once again about the new job evaluation system that is being brought in by the government. It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, there are rumblings from all quarters on this particular system and I am concerned about some of the disparities that seem to exist within departments. For example, I understand tradesmen with four-year journeyman tickets have been evaluated not much higher than clerical positions. This also leads to the concern as well with health, for instance, how the nurses and social workers are rated. If there is disparity within departments, is there disparity across departments as well? My understanding was the intent of this system was to ensure that there was a certain consistency throughout government for jobs that were at the same level of complexity and requirements for education and experience. I would hope the government considers this evaluation system at this point a work in progress, listens very carefully to the feedback and concerns being raised and take some steps to adjust

the system to make it a truly workable representative system of evaluation that will have a buy-in from the employees and the union, as well as the government. It is a critical piece of work. It is long overdue. It is tied into pay equity. There is a lot riding on this and I would strongly encourage the government to make the steps necessary to, in fact, reflect the changes and see if we can move on with a system that does meet all the needs and demands. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Krutko.

Member's Statement 328-13(5): Passing of Fred Blake Sr.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is with further sadness from my constituency that I present my statement today, Mr. Speaker. Early yesterday morning, the people of Fort McPherson lost another one of their respected and treasured elders, Mr. Fred Blake, Senior, who was suffering from a weakening illness for the remaining few months of his life. Fred Blake Senior succumbed to his illness, but not without giving a fight to the end. Fred Blake Senior was born in East Branch on the Mackenzie River in 1917 and was the son of Arthur and Elizabeth Blake. Fred and his wife, Elizabeth George, were married in 1937 and had a family of 14 children, all of whom are still alive today. They also have more than 37 grandchildren.

As an active young man, Fred was always involved in his traditional way of life. That is how he raised his family, through hunting, fishing and trapping on a daily basis. He had plenty of energy left when he came back to the communities to join in football and also in square dancing and jiggling.

For many years, Fred was the local water delivery man in Fort McPherson. He carried out his duties diligently and effectively. Although Fred was retired and collecting Old Age Pension, he remained active in the social structure of the community. He participated in square dancing, calling on a regular basis and Fred was present along with other musicians of the local community to always be there to entertain the community. Despite getting on in age, Fred continued to get back to the land every spring to pursue his traditional way of life at Husky River. He was also known as a nice old man who loved to joke and tease, especially to the younger people, making people

laugh regardless if it was on the street or in his home. Fred was always there for everyone.

On behalf of my constituency and myself and family, I offer my sincere condolences and sympathy to Fred's family, his wife Elizabeth and all his children and grandchildren. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Erasmus.

Member's Statement 329-13(5): The Need for Arctic Winter Games Volunteers

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to assist the Arctic Winter Games. Mr. Speaker, the Arctic Winter Games Committee requires volunteers to help put together beds for the participants who will be coming to Yellowknife. On March 13th and 14th, they will be working in four-hour shifts and require quite a few volunteers yet to put those beds together. At this time, on behalf of the Members who will be in town and the staff at the Legislative Assembly, I am putting forth a challenge to the other departments to see who would put

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in the biggest teams to put these beds together, Mr. Speaker.

The person to contact, of course, is Dan Schofield. His phone number is 873-7755. His fax number is 920-6467 and I have been asked to give the information that volunteers will be provided with a t-shirt as long as they register. You do not have to register yourself, just put in your name and the volunteers there will fill out the registration forms for you. As I said, they need quite a few people to do this. It will be done in three four-hour shifts, two on Friday and one on Saturday.

Someone has passed me a note asking what job am I doing. I will be the foreman. Thank you.

--Laughter/Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Evaloarjuk.

Member's Statement 330-13(5): Special Needs Teachers - Funding Shortages

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concern with the lack of sufficient special needs' teachers in our Arctic communities. The NWT communities are experiencing difficulties in school operations, mainly due to the cutbacks in funding. There are more students enrolled in school, but there are fewer teachers to meet the needs of all the students, not to mention the lack of teachers for special needs' students. There is little to no funding to support an Inuktitut curriculum or quality Inuktitut programs for the students.

The cost of living in the Arctic is much higher than anywhere else in Canada. This presents a large problem when government initiatives deliver budget cutbacks on living allowances, base salaries, vacation travel allowances and other allowances. The quality and experience in teachers that are needed are at a risk with all the cutbacks in funding. Fewer teachers will flow into the High Arctic if funding is continually cut, which means our young people will have a limited education. I believe that it is important for our children to have a good education. We need good teachers to provide that and if we start to take risks with our children's education, where will it stop? The effects will be felt throughout our communities for many years.

Mr. Speaker, I will be tabling two documents at the appropriate time regarding this matter, showing concerns of the residents and the Baffin Divisional Board of Education with this ongoing issue. I hope that the Minister will be responding to the concerns they raise. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Roland.

Member's Statement 331-13(5): Inuvik Region Detoxification Centre

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in an effort to try and get the community more involved in Inuvik in what I do here, I requested the Social Work Program of Aurora Campus in Inuvik to prepare a statement and a line of questioning for any of the Ministers that they felt was a concern in Inuvik. Mr. Speaker, I will follow with the statement prepared.

Currently, within Inuvik and the Beaufort Delta region, there is no detox available to those suffering from alcohol addictions. The health planning project, Community Profile of Needs, which was completed in 1996 documented that alcoholism was cited as a major social issue within virtually every community within the region. Further to this, detox was clearly stated to be a community need. It has, in fact, been openly identified by employers, government, superintendents, regional education authorities, as well as Aurora College, that alcohol abuse is impacting directly upon the educational and work environment in our region.

The Inuvik interagency committee has been actively advocating for a detox centre and had, in fact, been informed that one would be built and located within the new hospital complex. Recently, Inuvik received word that this was no longer the case and that one medical detox bed would instead, be provided within the regular medical unit. There is a big difference between a two to three day medical detoxification as compared to a social detox. As a result, residents of this area continue to be faced with the reality of having to travel out of their region to receive such necessary services. This creates barriers to health and wellness. The window of opportunity to help someone who is drinking is very short. Clearly, detox needs to be available within our region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Ootes.

Member's Statement 332-13(5): Commissioner's Awards Recipients

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last night I had the privilege of attending the Commissioner's Award Ceremony here in the Great Hall, with about 200 people present. There were two presentations last evening, Mr. Speaker. The first was a bravery award to a young Yellowknife man, Brennan Debassaghe, who fought off a large dog in order to save his cousin who had become entangled in the dog's chain.

--Applause

The second presentation was to Justice Mark de Weerdts for exceptional public service over the course of his 40 years in the north and I want to acknowledge that Justice de Weerdts is here with us this afternoon.

--Applause

I can think of no one more deserving of this honour than Mark de Weerdts and I was pleased to be able to participate in the ceremony. He has been an inspiration and role model for two generations of northern lawyers. His skill, compassion, integrity and honesty complement his knowledge of the law. Some of his finest work over the years has been outside of the courtroom, helping to make this sometimes unwieldy court system more understandable and open to all. In the early years, his wife Ann was often left to raise their four children on

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her own, while Mark was flying around the north in a single otter for weeks at a time. Ann also found time to develop the CNIB here in Yellowknife and worked with the YWCA. Both of the de Weerdts gave a lot back to our community and the northern communities in terms of volunteer activity and in that respect, the Commissioner's Award really goes to them as a team.

With Mark's retirement last year, we bid farewell to the last of the original three justices of the northern court, but as Yellowknife demonstrated last night, out of sight is not necessarily out of mind. We will once again have the honour of having Justice de Weerdts' presence on the bench from time to time in the north. He was sworn in this morning as Deputy Judge of his old court, so he can return north for flying squad duty on circuits, just like in the old days. I want to thank Justice de Weerdts for making the trip back to Yellowknife for the award ceremony and I especially thank the committee for choosing him and young Brennan Debassaghe as recipients of this award. As I said before, I can think of no two people more deserving. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Ningark.

Member's Statement 333-13(5): Funding Shortages for Educational Initiatives

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will be speaking in my language in regard to education. I will take it from where Mr. Evaloarjuk left off.

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Mr. Evaloarjuk had stated with regard to education, this is not the first time we have heard this concern. We have heard this concern brought up before in the past as to the lack of funding with regard to education issues. Mr. Evaloarjuk usually brings up concerns with regard to lack of funding for Baffin. It is also a problem for Kitikmeot, for some of my ridings, Mr. Speaker. We always hear the education is important for our children. It is important for our children to attend school as a young child and as well as a high school student. They are encouraged to go to school and if school-aged children are not going to school anymore, then the Department of Education or other departments will go to the parents and tell them they have to go to court because their children are not attending school.

If we are serious about education, we have to be serious about allocating enough funding for education in the different regions. Mr. Speaker, we want our concerns to be heard. This is the only way of continuing education by allowing and giving enough funding for educational purposes. Let us find some other way to allocate funds for educational purposes. I would like to thank Mr. Evaloarjuk for his concern. Thank you, as well, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

--Applause.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mrs. Groenewegen.

Member's Statement 334-13(5): Hay River Youth Centre

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am very proud today to speak on what I consider to be an inspiring achievement by constituents in my riding. In the summer of 1996, after three years of planning by the ministerial committee, the long talked about idea of a youth centre in Hay River was realized. The main goal for the organizers of the centre is to create and maintain an environment to promote the spiritual, physical and social development of youth in Hay River by presenting them with positive choices, role modelling and strategies for dealing with life's issues, based on Christian principles.

Another continuing goal of the centre is to offer our young people a safe haven to enjoy activities in an

alcohol and drug free environment. The youth centre organizes and offers a wide range of activities for the young people of Hay River. In addition to in-house activities such as movies and computer access, the centre also organizes youth to assist in community events such as the Heritage Days Festival and First Night Festival.

In order for a centre of this size and range of programming to operate effectively, a staff of 25 community volunteers under the auspices of Ms. Andrea Webb, oversees the facility. Ms. Webb also acts as counsellor and confidante to the youth that come to the centre. Mr. Speaker, it is comforting to know that the youth in my riding have a place to go and find answers and guidance in an environment that is well suited to young people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Picco.

Member's Statement 335-13(5): Allocation of Budget Surpluses to Priority Areas

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the 13th Assembly has identified its main priorities through the release of a document entitled, "Agenda for Change" that has been tabled in this House. The Agenda for Change confirmed that the old and expensive way of doing business must be changed. With the fiscal year-end quickly approaching, a number of GNWT departments have experienced or may anticipate some budget surpluses. The Minister of Finance has indicated in this House that Cabinet will reallocate any surplus according to the priorities established by both Cabinet and this Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, some draft motions have been worked on and hopefully, the reallocation of any departmental surpluses; for example, social envelopes like education and health will be entertained and endorsed by this government. As we have heard this morning, there are concerns by other Members on these matters. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Henry.

Member's Statement 336-13(5): Diamond Mining Spin-off Industries

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise to voice my displeasure at the lack of response and encouragement from the federal government to the Northwest Territories' quest to maximize the benefits to northerners from diamond mining spin-off industries. Recently, Mr. Speaker, the RCMP approached the federal government to enact legislation to make the ownership of rough diamonds illegal in Canada. I have no problem with that. With diamonds comes a criminal element and the RCMP need the tools to deal with these individuals. However, Mr. Speaker, what I know will make my blood pressure rise is the speed in which the federal government will respond to the RCMP's request in comparison to our request to maximize the benefits of diamond mining to northerners. This is to be expected, Mr. Speaker, as this legislation will also protect the federal government's royalty regime.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps, when we have been around as long as the RCMP, we might get the same positive response to our requests, as I am sure this request to make the possession of rough diamonds illegal will receive.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to encourage this government to continue lobbying the federal government to ensure that the Northwest Territories residents receive a fair and equitable share of diamond royalty spin-offs from that industry. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Ms. Thompson.

Member's Statement 337-13(5): Greetings from Mother to Sons

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to make a brief statement regarding my two sons, Trevor and Randy, whom I have not seen for three weeks now. I did see the younger one for a little over an hour on television and I asked them to look at my hair

on television as I just got it cut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

--Laughter/Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Return To Oral Question 296-13(5): Commitment Authority of Deputy Ministers

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. O'Brien on February 11th, commitment authority of deputy ministers. In response to Mr. O'Brien's question with regard to a limit on the amount of dollars that a deputy minister can commit for a lease or lease renewal, the answer is that there is not an exact amount stipulated in the Financial Administration Act. Under the Financial Administration Act, a Minister may delegate expenditure or contract authority to a deputy minister or public officer. In delegating the authority, monetary limits and conditions to meet the business needs of the positions apply, not a standard number applied to all individuals who hold a comparable level of authority in government. In order for individuals to make decisions on expenditures, they must have been delegated authority to do so.

For a deputy minister or other employee to exercise expenditure authority, it must be specifically delegated. Having been delegated authority, individuals are held responsible and accountable in the completion of their duties under the legislation and guidelines of the Government of the Northwest Territories.

The government has guidelines that outline provisions for the designation of officers and the delegation and application of signing authority. Financial Administration Directive 802-1, containing these guidelines was tabled in this House on February 11, 1998. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Return to oral questions. Mr. Ng.

Return To Oral Question 301-13(5): Pregnancy and Sexually Transmitted Disease Rates Among Teens

HON. KELVIN NG:

In return to an oral question asked by Mr. Erasmus on February 12, 1998 on teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease rates, there is no ongoing surveillance of sexual activity in the Northwest Territories, however, some statistics are available from the study done by Education, Culture and Employment in 1993 entitled, "Health Behaviours, Attitudes and Knowledge of Young People in the NWT".

This study reports that by age 14, 27 percent of boys and 30 percent of girls, reported having intercourse at least once. However, we do not know how the situation has changed since then.

Fertility rates of teenagers can provide an indirect means of estimating sexual activity levels. Fertility rates for NWT teenagers are somewhat higher than in the rest of Canada.

Statistics on sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are another source of information, although information is not available by age group. The 1997 Review of Gonococcal and Chlamydia Infections in the NWT, published in EpiNorth, shows that the numbers of STD cases reported are not decreasing.

In cases of gonorrhoea, numbers decreased sharply in the early 1990s, but the last four years have shown no further gains. In 1997, numbers have increased slightly in both Nunavut and the western Northwest Territories.

For chlamydia infections, numbers have remained stubbornly high throughout this past decade. Reports of chlamydia infections totalled 1,047 in 1997, a 16.5 percent increase over the previous year. However, the number of reports decreased slightly in the west, but increased by 37 percent in Nunavut.

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This increase can be explained by the introduction of a new and better way of testing for STDs at the Baffin Regional Hospital Laboratory in January of 1997. The Keewatin region also began using the Baffin lab in April. As more cases get treated, you would expect a decrease in the frequency of new reports in subsequent years.

Having higher rates of STDs does not necessarily mean that our young people are more sexually active. Our reporting system is among the best in Canada. We must also think that a number of young people

are forced into sexual relationships against their will. In the 1993 an Education, Culture and Employment survey mentioned earlier, 5 percent of the grade 9 to 10 boys and 21 percent of the girls also reported having been forced into sexual intercourse; this can serve as a reminder that this issue goes much beyond teaching kids about healthy sexuality. In that context, providing knowledge on safe sex and making condoms available is not sufficient.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Return to oral questions. Mr. Kakfwi. You have three returns. You may go ahead with all three.

Return To Oral Question 327-13(5): Cleanup of Cape Christian

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you. Mr. Speaker, this is in response to Mr. Enuaraq regarding cleanup of Cape Christian. The Federal Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development transferred buildings and other assets located at the former United States Coastguard Station near Cape Christian to the Government of the Northwest Territories in 1979. The transfer documents did not clearly indicate who was responsible for cleaning up the debris and contaminated soil remaining at the site. Regardless of this outstanding matter, my department has undertaken a great deal of work in recent years to remove those wastes which pose the greatest risk. During this time, my department and the Department of Public Works and Services have also been in discussion with DIAND in an attempt to resolve the matter of responsibility, but with little success. More recently, my deputy minister has raised this subject with DIAND's Regional Director General.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot at this time, provide the honourable Member, with a direct answer to his question of when the cleanup of Cape Christian will be completed because discussions with the federal government have not resolved the matter of responsibility. I can state, however, that this government remains committed to ensuring the safety of our residents and the environment by continuing to work towards the eventual cleanup of Cape Christian and other abandoned military sites located across the north. Thank you.

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

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

This is a return to oral questions, asked by my friend, Mr. Henry, on February 20th. It is regarding reallocation of fire suppression surplus.

The Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development (RWED) obtained two Public Service Career Training Program (PSCTP) positions from the Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE). ECE funds 50 percent of the salary dollars for these positions. The training department, in this case RWED, funds the remaining 50 percent. PSCTP pays salaries at 80 percent of the full salary requirement. The two positions were a Renewable Resource Officer II Trainee and a Wildlife Technician. Therefore, we were required to fund 50 percent of the salary requirements as well as operations and maintenance for specific training courses including travel, accommodation and other expenses. I told you this was a written question.

The salary requirements for a Renewable Resource Officer II are approximately \$58,000 and \$56,000 for a Wildlife Technician. This amounts to \$114,000 and at 80 per cent, equals approximately \$95,000. ECE paid half. Therefore, RWED's share was approximately \$47,000. As the fiscal year had commenced, costs were prorated accordingly and estimated at \$40,000 (\$25,000 for salaries and \$15,000 for operations and maintenance). Thank you.

Return To Oral Question 315-13(5): Interest Relief for Business Credit Corporation Loans

This is a response to a question asked by Mr. Miltenberger on February 13th, interest relief for business credit corporation loans.

Currently, there are 105 borrowers whose loan interest rates exceed eight percent. A general, across-the-board reduction equals approximately \$300,000 in interest payment reductions. It is important to note that this estimate is based on the current rate of eight percent per annum over the next three fiscal years, and breaks down as follows:

Fiscal Year Savings to borrowers

1998-99 \$150,000

1999-00 \$110,000

2000-01 \$ 40,000

The interest roll back means that the Business Credit Corporation will forego approximately \$300,000 in interest revenues over the next three years. This amount will be reflected in the corporation's net income for that period.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like

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to proudly recognize my baby brother, Mark Miltenberger, Brett Harris, Scotty Roberts, some hockey legends from Hay River on their way to Iqaluit to bring hockey glory back to The Hub.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Hay River has a couple of days off school, so I have the pleasure of having my lovely daughter with me in Yellowknife over the next few days, Jillian, welcome to the Assembly.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Joanase Kakumalik, a long-time resident from Arctic Bay who moved to Iqaluit. He is attending the Peary caribou meeting and conference here in Yellowknife. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors to the gallery. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Pat Thomas of the NWTTA.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. OOTES:

Mr. Speaker, I am not sure if they are still in the gallery because we cannot see behind us, but I would like to recognize Mr. Justice de Weerd and Norm Mair, a former Yellowknife businessman now retired, but still an active resident in our fair city. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 447-13(5): Funding Shortages for Educational Initiatives

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to Mr. Dent, Minister for Education, Culture and Employment. As I indicated in my Member's statement, as well, Mark Evaloarjuk has spoken about his concern regarding education eloquently many times in this House. The educational regional board in the Kitikmeot region looks for ways and means to increase their funding, but there is very little opportunity in the Nunavut area to receive more funding other than what they get from the government. My question to the honourable Minister is, how are the education regional boards funded? Are they funded quarterly, biannually or annually? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 447-13(5): Funding Shortages for Educational Initiatives

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure I can answer the question. I do know in the past we used to fund boards in advance with one annual lump sum payment and boards used the interest from that money to augment their programs. We were advised by the Auditor General that this is not acceptable and therefore changed the funding program. I am not sure if they are funded quarterly or monthly, Mr. Speaker, but I will provide the Member with that information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 448-13(5): Diamond Industry Task Force

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is to the Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Kakfwi. Prior to Christmas, Mr. Speaker, I believe it is fair to say that this government and Ordinary Members of this House put up a sufficient unified voice that we finally got the ear of the federal government to listen to the concerns northerners had in prospects in the future diamond industry. I feel we did get the federal government's ear because as in all good governments, when they get under pressure, they form a committee to look at the situation. From that, came the federal-territorial diamond task force. Mr. Speaker, I recall where the task force had one evening where an individual did attend a function here in Yellowknife and I believe there has been a subsequent meeting. I would ask the Minister responsible, Mr. Kakfwi, if he could update this House and the people of the Northwest Territories as to where this diamond task force is at presently? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 448-13(5): Diamond Industry Task Force

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In a recent letter from Minister Jane Stewart, she acknowledged that while the task force was on a great mission and has to do important things on behalf of both governments, that, in fact, they would be very late in delivering whatever goods they are able to muster up. It is a reluctant acknowledgement that we are slow off the mark and whatever good recommendations they might be able to deliver is still one to three months down the road. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

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Supplementary To Question 448-13(5): Diamond Industry Task Force

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for that. I would appreciate if he could respond a little further as to the timetable of the committee, when they are coming north, what communities they are going to visit - this type of information - and any advertising or advance notice the residents of the territories will have in preparing submissions to this group. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 448-13(5): Diamond Industry Task Force

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I can provide a written response to the Member and all Members of the Legislature giving them details of the tentative meeting schedules and agenda items for the task force over the next month and a half. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 448-13(5): Diamond Industry Task Force

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister tell the people of the Northwest Territories through this forum what the goals of the Government of the Northwest Territories are in regard to this diamond task force. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 448-13(5): Diamond Industry Task Force

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, in general terms, the task force was set up because we are of the view that senior officials within the federal government and various departments involved do not have sufficient interest or knowledge/information available to them in order to properly advise the federal government on how important this new emerging industry is to Canada and how the government should be advised by their officials in regard to how they handle this new emerging industry. The foremost task of this is to get educated, to become aware and to become familiar with the diamond industry. The second is to put together the two or three federal departments, the senior managements from within those departments together with the senior officials from our government here in the Northwest Territories and come up with some recommendations that would guide the federal government and this government on how we can best work together to identify and maximize the economic benefits. Opportunities are presented as a result of this new industry that is coming into force in Canada. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 448-13(5): Diamond Industry Task Force

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Hopefully, this is my final supplementary. I believe this government well over a year ago, did go out and get expertise outside of its own ranks to help them provide a starting point as to the benefits they could receive. I believe the federal government had relied solely on some of their internal staffs. There was a commitment from the federal government that they were going to go outside of their own government ranks to bring in this expertise. To

the Minister's knowledge, has this happened? Has the federal government acquired outside expertise on this topic? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 448-13(5): Diamond Industry Task Force

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, as a general rule, the federal government has no experts within its ranks. There are no experts on diamonds within the federal government. What the federal government has are a few people who have taken the time to visit with diamentaires and are regurgitating for federal officials and Ministers the information they have gleaned from meeting with diamentaires in Europe and also in the country. There are presently no people within the federal government who have first hand experience in working and dealing with diamonds. The federal government has had to lean exclusively on getting information from outside expertise to formulate the positions they have taken to date. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 449-13(5): GNWT Job Evaluation System

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is addressed to the Minister responsible for FMBS and is in regard to the job evaluation system. Earlier in the week, we raised concerns about communicating with the employees about this new system to inform them so they are not caught unawares and are aware of what the intent is. It would appear that in addition to communicating with employees, there are some discrepancies or questions about how ratings were done that have quickly become evident. Tradesmen, for instance, are being rated where they are. As well, there is some disparity with social workers and nurses. Is the government going to be looking at fixing any possible glitches or disparities in this system as part of the implementation process to, in fact, ensure there is a fair and equitable system? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 449-13(5): GNWT Job Evaluation System

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly in any major undertaking like we have taken with regard to job evaluation, there are going to be glitches, and where they are, we will take whatever steps that are necessary to make the appropriate adjustments so that the majority of our employees are content. Thank you.

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MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 449-13(5): GNWT Job Evaluation System

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad to hear the Minister's response. Would the Minister include that in his communication with the employees that, in fact, this system, while attempts are made to make it a perfect system, may have glitches and that, in fact, it is not carved in stone and the undertaking the Minister just gave this House will be passed on to employees? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 449-13(5): GNWT Job Evaluation System

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, in fact, we are doing that right now in trying to deal with some of the situations on a one-to-one basis. I would advise my colleague that, like in any situation, not everybody will be content with what we are doing. However, we will to the best of our ability try to reach the appropriate accommodation as necessary so the job evaluation system is fair and transparent. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Roland.

Question 450-13(5): Inuvik Region Detoxification Centre

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question at this time will be directed to the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services. In line with my Member's statement, these questions were prepared by the same class at the Aurora Campus. The Inuvik region has identified a definite need for a detox centre. With recent emphasis that has been consistently placed on community empowerment and development, how can the government explain their decision to ignore the needs identified by the communities themselves? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 450-13(5): Inuvik Region Detoxification Centre

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are not ignoring the needs of the communities as identified. It is unfortunate that we cannot provide these services in every community or every region, but certainly, the services are still available in the Northwest Territories for detox. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 450-13(5): Inuvik Region Detoxification Centre

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Why has the current government not followed through with the commitment or promise to fund detox facilities within the community of Inuvik?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 450-13(5): Inuvik Region Detoxification Centre

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am unaware of any commitment that this government or past governments have made in respect to funding for a detox centre. Even if that had been the situation, it is unfortunate that some of the fiscal changes that had to be made as a result of meeting our financial obligations, particularly in the area of alcohol and drug reform, might have precluded anything from happening in that area even if it was on the books, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 450-13(5): Inuvik Region Detoxification Centre

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My final supplementary, the GNWT promised that the closure of Delta House would not create major problems within this region and the needs of the community would be addressed. Since the closure of this agency, social problems related to addictions and associated issues have increased. What is the GNWT prepared to do in order to address these issues?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng

Further Return To Question 450-13(5): Inuvik Region Detoxification Centre

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have made the commitment publicly, and I will reiterate. There is not a denial of access to any services for individuals who may require residential alcohol and drug treatment which continues to be the case. If there are circumstances or cases where the honourable Member feels that individuals are not receiving adequate access to those programs, I would be more than willing to pursue that on his behalf or on behalf of his constituents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 451-13(5): Income Support Appeals Process

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent. It is in regard to the whole area of income support and the appeals process presently in place. I would like to ask the Minister exactly what is being done to educate the people and make them aware that they do have the right to appeal decisions of income support workers. My question is to the Minister in regard to the income support appeals process. What is the Government of the Northwest Territories doing to ensure that residents who collect income support know about the process of appeal?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

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Return To Question 451-13(5): Income Support Appeals Process

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is the expectation of the department that the income support worker would advise anybody who is refused support that they are able to appeal the decision.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 451-13(5): Income Support Appeals Process

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One thing that I have found, Mr. Speaker, is that there is a timeframe in regard for an appeal, which is seven days. In most communities, that is how long it takes the mail to go from one community to the next. I would like to ask the Minister in regard to the timeframe on the appeal, can the Minister ensure the appeal process is adequate to allow the individual to complete an appeal and also the time it takes for that appeal to be sent to the appropriate appeals committee?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 451-13(5): Income Support Appeals Process

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If there are, in fact, problems in timing because of mail service, we would certainly be prepared to look at that. If the Member can inform me as to the specific community and concern, I would be prepared to follow up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 451-13(5): Income Support Appeals Process

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister, what is being done in regard to the educational process, so people are aware this appeal process does work? Is there an effort made in regard to making submissions on the radio, newspaper or are there papers posted in different offices to make these clients aware of this appeal process?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 451-13(5): Income Support Appeals Process

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in a number of offices I have visited, it has been quite visible. The appeals process is publicized in the office by way of signs in a number of locations advising potential clients they do have the right to appeal a decision made by an income support worker. I do not believe we have embarked on a campaign to make the public aware of it. If there is a concern within an office, if the Member would direct me to the specific office, what we will do is work with the income support worker to make sure the clients are advised of their rights. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 451-13(5): Income Support Appeals Process

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister tell me exactly what the process is for communities that do not have an appeals process? Where do they go?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 451-13(5): Income Support Appeals Process

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would expect the initial appeal would have to be referred to the income support worker's supervisor, and it would be forwarded on from that point. I am not aware of the specific route the worker would follow. However, I will endeavour to supply the Member with a detailed response. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 452-13(5): Office Lease Negotiations Process

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of DPW. When a government department is renting a space from a private supplier, who negotiates the cost of that space to be leased, the department or another representative from DPW? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Public Works and Services, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 452-13(5): Office Lease Negotiations Process

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, whenever there is a lease to be negotiated, usually the department goes out for a request for proposals to see if they can get the best deal. There is a process out there that the department follows. Usually in

different communities and regions, it is normally handled by the regional superintendent. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 452-13(5): Office Lease Negotiations Process

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the regions, it seems to be handled by the regional superintendent, the Minister said. What about individual departments under the user pay, user say initiative? Do they have to negotiate their own leases and increases are the same? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 452-13(5): Office Lease Negotiations Process

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HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is still under the authority of Public Works and Services in most cases, trying to get the critical mass and so forth for trying to get the best cost for the space. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 452-13(5): Office Lease Negotiations Process

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think everyone supports the idea of getting the best price, so that the taxpayers pay less. Mr. Speaker, my question is that the space that is being rented, the negotiations are underway and we just ascertained that the regional superintendent would be involved and under the user pay, is it safe to assume that the final say would be the department that is renting the space? Would the Department of DPW give them a rate if they had to pay? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 452-13(5): Office Lease Negotiations Process

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the department does have a say in the process since they are the client department. All the rates vary throughout the different leases. Like he says, we are trying to get the best base rate and go from there. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. I will allow you that fifth question. You already asked two questions in your last one. Go ahead, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 452-13(5): Office Lease Negotiations Process

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, has the Department of Public Works said anywhere that there would be any increases in rents negotiated for this fiscal year? Have they made that directly? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 452-13(5): Office Lease Negotiations Process

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you. It is a direction within the department that we are trying to go for savings rather than more costs. It is a direction within the department to try to go for the best value for the dollar. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Evaloarjuk.

Question 453-13(5): Relocation of Hall Beach Power Station

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of NWTPC. Mr. Speaker, the residents of Hall Beach have a concern regarding

the power station that is located right in the centre of the community. They had requested previously to the NWTPC and to the previous Minister to see if they would relocate this particular power station site. I am wondering if the Minister can tell me if they can relocate this power station to where it is not in the middle of the community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister responsible for the NWT Power Corporation, Mr. Dent.

Return To Question 453-13(5): Relocation of Hall Beach Power Station

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there is no known safety concern for us to consider moving the power plant in Hall Beach. It is important that communities remember that the full cost of power in their community, including if necessary, moving the power plant, has to be recovered from that community. It would cost millions of dollars to move the power plant and to do so would cause an undue hardship on the community because that cost to do that would have to be reflected in their power rates. The power plant in Hall Beach was upgraded in 1993-94. Approximately \$2.5 million was spent on the plant at that time including the installation of the new engine. The central location of the power plant also lends itself to a heat recovery project which could reduce the amount of green house gas emissions in the community and could cut down on the cost of heating some of the public buildings in the community. We would hope the community would consider rather than moving the power plant that we look at opportunities to better utilize the heat that is now going to waste. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 453-13(5): Relocation of Hall Beach Power Station

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister assure me that he could consider relocation of the site? Can the Minister also tell me what he would do if there were to be an accident in this

community, for instance, if there was a fire in the power station and other buildings caught fire? What kind of measures would be taken as the Minister indicated that it would take millions of dollars to relocate this power station. What is he considering first, safety or money? Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 453-13(5): Relocation of Hall Beach Power Station

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated earlier, the power plant in Hall Beach is in a similar situation to many of the power plants in the north in its location in relation to other buildings in the community. There is no reason to think that the building causes any danger to other buildings. The fuel tank associated with the plant has a steel berm around it which is in good shape and the above ground pipeline which previously supplied that tank is no longer in use. In fact, the tank is supplied by truck on a regular basis from the

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tank farm. We do not consider that location to be at risk. As I have said, it is not a question of putting money before safety. As far as the Power Corporation is concerned that plant is as safe as any other. The request to move the plant would be unnecessary from a safety point of view. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 454-13(5): Commitment Authority of Deputy Ministers

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Premier in reference to his return to oral question regarding spending authority and authority for deputy ministers. It indicates in the return that there is no ceiling on the amount of dollars a Minister may spend and that he has pretty much full discretion to do so, to enter into leases and contract authority, which is under the Financial Administration Act. My

question, Mr. Speaker, is that it indicates that the Minister has the option or he may delegate this authority. Does the Minister have to delegate authority in each contract or lease extension or is it a carte blanche, something that he is given when he accepts a position, that for the rest of his tenure he can make these decisions?

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 454-13(5): Commitment Authority of Deputy Ministers

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, the Minister does not have to delegate authority on each individual issue. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. O'Brien.

Supplementary To Question 454-13(5): Commitment Authority of Deputy Ministers

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is there any point or level of spending that a Minister must come back to Cabinet to seek approval prior to signing a lease or contract, for example, if it is in the multimillion dollar range, prior to a deputy signing a contract or a lease? Is there any point where he or his Minister would come back to Cabinet to seek approval or support prior to signing such a contract? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 454-13(5): Commitment Authority of Deputy Ministers

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If this is a negotiated contract, it always has to come to Cabinet, FMB, but if it is an extension of a contract and within guidelines, has good reasons to do it, then they just do it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. O'Brien.

Supplementary To Question 454-13(5): Commitment Authority of Deputy Ministers

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the case of open ended leases, would the Minister have to go back to Cabinet to seek approval or permission?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 454-13(5): Commitment Authority of Deputy Ministers

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is no such thing as an open ended lease. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 454-13(5): Commitment Authority of Deputy Ministers

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will rephrase my question. I am referring to a lease that is open for negotiations or for further negotiations, extensions. In that case, does the Minister come back to Cabinet to seek approval or support prior to the deputy signing such a lease?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 454-13(5): Commitment Authority of Deputy Ministers

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, the Minister of DPW answered this question many times and I will answer the same way he did. The deputy has the authority on an extension of contracts to do that. If the deputy does that, he does not even have to go to the Minister. The Minister does not have to go to FMB or Cabinet. The extension of the lease, the deputy does that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Ootes.

Question 455-13(5): Yellowknife Office Space Plan

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of DPW, it is in regard to office space in Yellowknife. We received a memo from the Minister on February 24th, in which he provided further clarification on the office space in Yellowknife. I would like to clarify a few more points on this. There are two departments I would like to address, one is the Department of Transportation, and I note that the department occupies a total of 32,000 square feet divided between three buildings. Could the Minister tell us YK 4, I take it, that is the YK Tower downtown, they occupy 7,500 square feet. Could he tell us what particular area of responsibility this is of the transportation department? What area of activity of transportation is that?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 455-13(5): Yellowknife Office Space Plan

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker,

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YK 4, is YK Centre, airports division of Department of the Transportation which is in that building on the fourth floor. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 455-13(5): Yellowknife Office Space Plan

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My next one is regarding the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. I noticed they are also spread between two buildings. One is the Laing Building and the other is the Lahm Ridge Tower, on Laing 3 there is 10,173 square feet. What particular area of activity is that?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 455-13(5): Yellowknife Office Space Plan

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do not know which section of Department of Education, Culture and Employment is in the Laing Building. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 455-13(5): Yellowknife Office Space Plan

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I note that there is 10,000 square feet which is unoccupied in the Lahm Ridge Tower. My question is, are we moving one of these particular departments into the Lahm Ridge Tower?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 455-13(5): Yellowknife Office Space Plan

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Yellowknife office space rationalization plan was just approved the middle of January, we finally received their approval from Cabinet. The department is beginning to implement the plan and yes, part of the plan is to move, try to consolidate the existing departments out there which are scattered around Yellowknife. We are also looking at spaces that are out there, the surpluses and including the sale of the Laing Building as well. It is going to take some time before we know exactly how things are going to fall into place. We are looking at consolidating these different parts of each department still scattered around Yellowknife and part of the plan is to consolidate them under one roof. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 455-13(5): Yellowknife Office Space Plan

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My concern is, we still have two departments spread over several buildings in Yellowknife. When we were talking about the Lahm Ridge Tower, I thought the idea behind it was to consolidate within one department. My question I asked earlier, which particular department is going into which building? We are still in a state of saying where are these departments? They are not being consolidated. Which department is going into the Lahm Ridge Tower? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 455-13(5): Yellowknife Office Space Plan

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have told the honourable Member, this plan was only approved last week. With the number of departments we have in Yellowknife, the number of surpluses and also the impending sale of the Laing Building, it will take some time before the plan falls into place. We are working on the plan. Perhaps it will be the Department of Transportation or Education, Culture and Employment, we do not know at this point in time, but it will be one of them. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 456-13(5): Policy on Grollier Hall Issue

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Health and Social Services regarding the Grollier Hall residential school committee that has been formed in regard to the incident in the courts and the preparation for the individuals who were sexually abused when they were attending the school in Inuvik at this facility. What has the department done in regard to formulating an official policy in the Government of the Northwest Territories on this issue and question about intervention and the whole aspect of long-term healing that is going to be needed for these individuals.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 456-13(5): Policy on Grollier Hall Issue

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member referred to an overall government response to the issue and I would just like to inform the Member that we will be reviewing that. We have had Health and Social Services, Education and Justice working on that issue and we will be making a full statement in this Legislative Assembly next week. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 456-13(5): Policy on Grollier Hall Issue

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister, are they also going to consider looking at the long-term healing process that is needed to deal with these individuals on a one-to-one basis. Is there an attempt to also look at the financial resources that are going to be needed to look at the long-term implications of this problem.

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MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 456-13(5): Policy on Grollier Hall Issue

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said earlier, Cabinet will be reviewing the work that Education, Health and Social Services and Justice have done on this issue. We will be making a statement in this Legislative Assembly next week. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 456-13(5): Policy on Grollier Hall Issue

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Premier be making a statement to also identify resources at that time in light of the healing process that has been asked by the Grollier Hall committee? Are the resources going to be identified at that time?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 456-13(5): Policy on Grollier Hall Issue

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again, we will be reviewing the work that Education, Health and Social Services and Justice have done. They have done some excellent work from my understanding, and we will be making a full statement in this Legislative Assembly next week. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Barnabas.

Question 457-13(5): Relocation of Community Power Stations

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to follow up on the questions asked by my colleague, Mr. Evaloarjuk, to the same Minister. Mr. Speaker, in small communities, the power houses are right in the middle of the community and there is a lot of noise and smoke coming out of the power station. I notice here in Yellowknife and the bigger communities, like in Iqaluit, the power station is way out of the town. What I would like to know is, what is the process for the moving of the power station if requested by the community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister responsible for the Power Corporation, Mr. Dent.

Return To Question 457-13(5): Relocation of Community Power Stations

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated in my reply to the honourable Member for Amituq, Mr. Evaloarjuk, the Power Corporation would not initiate such an action. I do not know what it would cost to a community like Arctic Bay, but I do know to move the power plant in Hall Beach would cost \$4 million. The people who live in Hall Beach would have to pay for that. That would be \$4 million which would come out of the pockets of the people who pay for power in that community. I would assume it would be close to that amount in other communities. If a community is interested in seeing the power plant moved, we would want, first of all, to have an opportunity to explain the impact to the community, what it would mean to their power bills. We are already paying very high power bills in the north and to increase that cost to recover an extra \$4 million for the small number of people who pay for power in the north would be impossible. I doubt the community could afford the cost of moving it. There are, however, a number of money-saving opportunities. In the community of Fort McPherson, the power plant is also in the centre of the community, but what we have done is embarked on a joint venture with the community corporation to put in a heat recovery project whereby the town buildings are heated with heat that is otherwise going to waste from the power plant. This is saving people money right now on their heating bills, and it is contributing to a significant reduction in greenhouse gases going into the atmosphere. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Barnabas.

Supplementary To Question 457-13(5): Relocation of Community Power Stations

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I notice that about two or three years ago, when there was a low water supply here, all the communities in the Northwest Territories were paying four percent to the capital in order to keep the power rate low in Yellowknife. Why can the government not help out these communities if they can contribute half of the money? If the community can contribute half of the money, why cannot this department contribute half of it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 457-13(5): Relocation of Community Power Stations

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I understand it, the Public Utilities Board agreed that \$1 million of the \$4 million that should be collected for the low water surcharge should come from the communities outside of the Snare system. The rationale for that was that in previous years when there had been high water, the rates in Yellowknife and on the Snare system were not dropped. The people of Yellowknife and Rae-Edzo and Detah actually contributed to the cost of keeping power down in other communities. The Public Utilities Board rationalized that a portion of the low water surcharge should be collected from those communities that had received benefit in the past.

Mr. Speaker, in response to the question as to why the government does not assist the community, that would be a situation the government could perhaps consider if the request was made by the community, but the Power Corporation alone cannot do that. By the rules of the Public Utilities Board, every

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community must pay 100 percent of its cost of power. The Power Corporation itself may not subsidize any community. If the government chooses to do it, that is a different matter, but that question would not be addressed to me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 458-13(5): Addressing Regional Coordination

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Premier. Mr. Speaker, over the last year or so, we saw the elimination of the regional directors. This in itself, Mr. Speaker, has caused somewhat of a void in this government as relates to the hierarchy. I understand that there may be plans underway to deal with this and try to provide a better communication network that was in place when the regional directors were there. Can the Premier tell us exactly what is in the works to address this issue? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 458-13(5): Addressing Regional Coordination

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The way we tried to address this issue was by rotating the chair of the regional directors, for example, Mr. O'Brien's area is the Keewatin region, so we would rotate the chairs. What we want to do now is formalize it and the secretary to Cabinet is getting in touch with the regional directors to pick one regional director in every region to act as a liaison between the executive branch of government and the region and then the person would be compensated accordingly for performing that little bit of extra duty. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. O'Brien.

Supplementary To Question 458-13(5): Addressing Regional Coordination

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier is indicating that each of the superintendents in the region will at some point rotate and take on that additional responsibility and that there will be additional compensation for those individuals. Given the fact that there will be additional compensation, would it not be worth, again, reviewing the situation to see whether or not we should reinstate the regional directors as they were in the past, to serve as that liaison officer? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 458-13(5): Addressing Regional Coordination

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, absolutely not. As the Member can recall, we cut our budget well over \$1 million by eliminating the regional superintendents positions. We do not see the cost being very much at all and it would not be a rotated chair either. We would put one regional superintendent, the one that shines in the region, and he or she will carry out these

extra duties and will be compensated accordingly for those extra duties. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. O'Brien.

Supplementary To Question 458-13(5): Addressing Regional Coordination

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, who would make the decision as to which shining superintendent would take on this additional responsibility, yourself or Cabinet? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 458-13(5): Addressing Regional Coordination

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It would be made by my secretary to Cabinet, in consultation with regional superintendents, as well as the deputy ministers of the departments and in consultation with myself as well. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 459-13(5): Delegation of Expenditure Authority

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, following up on some earlier questions and the return to oral question by the Premier to Mr. O'Brien. My question will be for the Premier. Under the common authority of the deputy minister in response to the Minister, the Premier said in delegating authority, monetary limits and conditions to meet the business needs of positions apply. With that he goes on further to say in his response that, indeed, for a deputy minister or other employee to exercise expenditure authority, it must be specifically delegated. Does the Premier mean then that before a deputy minister enters into a contract, an amount, a dollar figure is given? For example, before the negotiations go on, the Premier or this government would say you have a \$4 million

window, that is what you can delegate. Is that what the Premier means when he says the deputy minister or other employee to exercise expenditure authority, it must be specifically delegated? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 459-13(5): Delegation of Expenditure Authority

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, for a deputy minister or other employee to exercise expenditure authority, it must be specifically delegated, that is what it means. Exactly what it says. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 459-13(5): Delegation of Expenditure Authority

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What does that

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specifically mean?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 459-13(5): Delegation of Expenditure Authority

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did not hear the question.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Picco, your second supplementary.

Supplementary To Question 459-13(5): Delegation of Expenditure Authority

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the answer is that there is not an exact amount stipulated in the

Financial Administration Act. It is a direct quote from the Premier, from his comment to Mr. O'Brien on the return to oral question, but with regard to a limit on the amount of dollars that a deputy minister can commit for a lease or renewal, the answer to that is the Minister may delegate that expenditure. What I am seeing here, Mr. Speaker, is a lot of gobbledygook. It seems to cloud the answer. What is the amount specifically delegated by the Minister? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 459-13(5): Delegation of Expenditure Authority

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In delegating authority, monetary limits and conditions to meet the business needs of the position apply, not a standard number applied to all individuals who hold a comparable level of authority in government. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 459-13(5): Delegation of Expenditure Authority

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in regard to a limit on the amount of dollars that a deputy minister can commit for a lease or a lease renewal, the answer is that there is not an exact amount stipulated in the Financial Administration Act, not in the act, but is there by the government?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 459-13(5): Delegation of Expenditure Authority

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In order for individuals to make decisions on expenditures, they must have been delegated the authority to do so. There is not an exact amount. For a deputy minister or other employee to exercise expenditure authority, it must be specifically delegated from the Minister. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Picco, final supplementary.

Supplementary To Question 459-13(5): Delegation of Expenditure Authority

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I agree with what the Premier has just said. Following up on that, in his response, he says that in delegating the authority, monetary limits and conditions to meet the business needs of the position apply. If the lease if \$4 million for a year, for example, that is the timeframe, the set amount that has been delegated to the Minister or the deputy minister. The deputy minister cannot go over that amount because they have delegated that authority. Is this correct?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 459-13(5): Delegation of Expenditure Authority

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on my return to an oral question by Mr. O'Brien I had said in that letter and return, not a standard number applied to all individuals who hold a comparable level of authority in government. A deputy minister in this government, Mr. Picco, as Mr. Antoine has replied many times and was tabled in this House as well, Mr. Speaker, of the delegation of authority to that specific deputy as an example, as the budget amount. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 460-13(5): Regulatory Reform Initiative

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Kakfwi. Last week, Mr. Speaker in this House I spoke about Legislative amendments that are badly needed. Other Members have spoken about needed amendments too. Legislation that does need amendments are Labour Standards Act, WCB, Condominium Act as raised by the honourable Member from Iqaluit, and the Wildlife

Act, Mr. Speaker. My question to the Minister is, under the regulatory reform initiative, can he tell us if any pieces of legislation will be amended as a result of this regulatory reform? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 460-13(5): Regulatory Reform Initiative

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a result of the work that the regulatory reform secretariat has undertaken since last March, we will see a draft act being sent to my office somewhere around the end of this month, a regulatory reform measures act. It will go to my office. We will look at it and probably take it to Cabinet tentatively with a plan of introducing it during the May/June session. This would be a series of proposed reforms to the regulatory instruments that this government has in place now intended to ease the regulatory burden on businesses as a result of the recommendations and work done to date. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Supplementary,

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Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 460-13(5): Regulatory Reform Initiative

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for that information. It was not clear, Mr. Speaker, in the Minister's response as to whether there would be any acts requiring amendments. My question to the Minister is, if there are acts or legislation that will be amended, does the Minister have available at this time what acts the department or secretariat are looking at?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 460-13(5): Regulatory Reform Initiative

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to give the Cabinet the prerogative to review the proposal before we begin discussing the elements of it in public. I would ask the Member if he would be somewhat patient and allow Cabinet to review the draft before I respond, specifically to the elements that might be contained in there. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Barnabas.

Question 461-13(5): Outpost Camp Establishment Process

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question will be directed to the Minister of Renewable Resources. (Translation) Mr. Speaker, I have a question to the Minister of RWED. We have people interested in making their own outpost camps and they often ask me what the procedure is in making your own outpost camp. Thank you. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 461-13(5): Outpost Camp Establishment Process

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, what I would advise the Member is the first order of business for someone who wants to get into the outfitting business would be to pay a visit to the local Renewable Resources officer or the local Economic Development officer and set up a meeting with them to discuss the interest that the Member might have or the individual. Seek their advice on how to best approach assessing the interest level and the probability of making it happen, what the process might be to pursue it to get the financing in place; how you get your tags, permits and licences and requirements under Workers' Compensation and other pieces of legislation. That would be the first order of business, getting to scope out all the implications and work responsibilities that it would entail. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Question period is over. Supplementary, Mr. Barnabas.

Supplementary To Question 461-13(5): Outpost Camp Establishment Process

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, how long is the process for funding people who applied for outpost camps, in order for them to start building a house for a camp where it is going to be located? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 461-13(5): Outpost Camp Establishment Process

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the things that happens is you need to get commercial tags allocated to you. Depending on where you live, that comes from different bodies, usually land claim bodies, like the Nunavut Wildlife Management body, the Inuvialuit Game Council is another one that has jurisdiction over the allowable commercial harvest of animals, the allocation of tags and designation of outfitters in different parts of the Northwest Territories. There are different parties, consultation requirements that we are obliged to meet. How long would it take to get funding in place after those things are all done and all the approvals are in place, it would depend on the size of the money requested. Usually, anywhere above \$250,000 would require the minimum of six months. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 8: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, I have a provisional return to written question 8, asked by Mr. Krutko on February 5, 1998 to the Minister of Health and Social Services, Honourable Kelvin Ng, concerning costs for drug and alcohol treatment.

Return To Written Question 8-13(5): Costs for Drug and Alcohol Treatment

More time is required to provide the information requested. The statistical information required compilation and analysis. The response will be provided on March 5, 1998.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. We will take a 15-minute break.

--Break

MR. SPEAKER:

The House will come back to order. Item 9, replies to opening address. Mr. Arlooktoo.

ITEM 9: REPLIES TO OPENING ADDRESS

Reply 3-13(5): Mr. Arlooktoo

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some issues that are important to myself, as MLA and to my constituency of Baffin South and for the people of Cape Dorset, Kimmirut and Sanikiluaq. First, I would like to say that I have enjoyed the time I have spent as the MLA for Baffin South and I look

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forward to the coming year and the future dealing with the challenges that we have today.

I will highlight, as I have said, some of the main issues that have been brought to me from my constituents, which I would like to talk about. Foremost is on Nunavut, the building of a new territory of a homeland of the Inuit of Canada and of those non-Inuit, our friends who have chosen to move to Nunavut over the years and call Nunavut their home.

April 1, 1999, is an important date, one that we have waited for many years. Looking at the division calendar that we have in the Assembly, I am reminded that we have 398 days left before that day arrives. Nunavut brings with it many challenges, but also many opportunities and hopes. The hopes for a better life, more jobs, training and empowerment of people that over the last few years have been learning to govern themselves in today's world.

There are many challenges, many things to do. My overall assessment is we are challenged by time. As times passes as we get closer to April, it will become more and more difficult to make sure we do all the things we want to do. On April 1, 1999, we will celebrate and welcome a new territory but it is up to us, the NWT Legislature and the Government of the NWT, the federal government and NTI to rise to the challenge of making sure April 1, 1999, as our Premier always says, is a time to celebrate.

Mr. Speaker, some issues that are important to my constituency, foremost is the cost of living. Just the day-to-day survival of providing food on the table is something that is closest to people's hearts and related to that is the area of jobs, social assistance, housing, et cetera. In all my constituency meetings, constituency phone-in shows which I hold at every opportunity, every several months in my three communities, the issue of the high cost of living and the lack of money is one that is brought up most of often. It is important to note that my constituency does not talk about it, in just the way of complaining that everything is too expensive, they do get into the discussion of what to do about it, such as the effect that social assistance has, important as it is, what the effect of social assistance has had on the people - the dependency factor, the inadequacy factor, et cetera. Social assistance is one area of great importance and interest to my constituency and to myself.

The other issue, related to the cost of living and money on the table, is something I will be talking to the Minister of RWED about and the recent issue of carving sales in my constituency. The carving industry is the most important in my constituency providing over \$3 million in revenue to the three communities and in providing Canada the ability to boast to the rest of the world that we have world-class art work. I am proud to say much of that art work comes from the communities and people I represent.

There have been concerns over the last few months and years over the market for carvings, the fact there has been declining sales and prices. We are trying to work on solutions for that, Mr. Speaker. We have been working with the Co-ops, buyers and carvers in trying to come up with solutions for increasing the market for carvings. I am pleased to say that we are planning for a major conference in April with representatives from three communities within my constituency and with representatives from the government, who recognize that it is important for the economy of the communities. I look forward in April,

to sit down with all of those people to come up with solutions. It is an important one, Mr. Speaker.

The issue of housing, if I could make a quick mention of it. I speak of it quite often, not only in my capacity of Minister but also as a resident. NWT housing is naturally a big concern. Over the years there has been great strides in improving the quality of housing, however, we still run into the problem of adequacy in terms of numbers and size of houses. As I have said many times in the House, although we have a very big problem, we are trying to deal with it right now. Unless we come up with innovative solutions, more than what we are doing now, we will be faced with even bigger problems down the road. I spent a fair amount of time here and in Ottawa recently reminding those who have influence of this. I will do that here again today. We do need to have an action plan and a strategy to deal with that, but at the same time I recognize that more than anything, it takes resources or money.

Mr. Speaker, in the area of youth, this is another issue that is very important as a political issue in my constituency, not only because of the fact the youth in all three communities have taken steps to get organized to work towards solutions they face, but also the fact things like the law, low self-esteem, school and issues which parents and the population in general are very concerned with. My constituency is also very concerned about this.

I wish to indicate that we are very thankful to Mr. Dent, who recently assisted the Cape Dorset youth committee in coming up with a solution with a need for a drop-in centre by giving some assistance for the purchase of an old building for a gathering place for the youth. I congratulate the youth committee for writing the letters and making the phone calls and convincing me to convince Mr. Dent that this was a worthwhile project. We are very thankful of that.

Also, in the area of youth facilities, the lack of an arena in Kimmirut is an issue which has been around for many years. There was one promised to the community more than ten years ago and put on the planning books, but it never materialized and in successive planning budgets there has been a Kimmirut Arena on the books, but for one reason or another because of other priorities, et cetera, that has been delayed again and again. I am pleased to say, Mr. Speaker, in this coming fiscal year, there is some certainty to the fact that an arena will be

built for Kimmirut. There is \$100,000 in the budget for planning, et cetera, for the arena. I do fully expect the year after that the capital dollars from the Government of Nunavut will be there. This is such an important area.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to also mention very quickly an issue that is important in Kimmirut and particularly Sanikiluaq, and that is the area of airline safety. In the recent past, there have been several airplane crashes in the Sanikiluaq area, and the community is quite concerned about aircraft safety. We have taken steps to work with Minister Antoine in ensuring that all inspections and maintenance of all the airlines that service those communities are done. We are putting together, with the help of the Government of the NWT and the Government of Canada, some information that I hope will assure that community that all is being done. Also, on the same issue, again in my home community of Kimmirut, airline safety is a big concern. This has to do with the lack of a suitable airport or airstrip for the community which has also been an issue for many, many years. I would like to thank Mr. Antoine for travelling with me and the Government of Canada Transport officials this fall to meet with the community to tour the area. Again, I am pleased to say, what I believe we have is a commitment to work further in finding a solution which will sometime soon find us building a new airstrip for the community of Kimmirut. We certainly do not have a finished product by any means, but we have taken some important steps in that area.

Mr. Speaker, just a couple of other points. Despite the pain and difficulties in making budget cuts, I am very proud to be a part of a group that has ensured we limit, to a great degree, the level of debt we will pass on to our children. From what I saw two years ago, it appeared that if we did not do anything, we would be leaving our children, in a matter of a few years, with hundreds and hundreds of millions of dollars in debt. We as a group have decided to do something about it. We will not be debt-free, but we will be close. Despite the difficulty in dealing with budget cuts, I am very proud we have been able to be a part of that.

In the area of Inuit employment, this is one which is important to my constituency, particularly in Cape Dorset which will be the site of a sub regional office for the Government of Nunavut, where the Nunavut Construction Corporation has started to build housing units and apartments for the Government of Nunavut workers. There is much anticipation that the Government of Nunavut will employ as many Inuit as

possible, and this is where the Inuit Employment Plan and training are so important. I am glad to see the hamlet of Cape Dorset is working with the Department of Education and other groups to ensure that all of the opportunities are taken up and that we do not lose out on this big opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, there are many other issues that I would like to speak about, which I will, in the coming months. I would like to make mention, very briefly, of the note that was an issue. I must admit it has taken up a lot of my mind over the last little while. It is an issue that I wish would quite soon go away, but I would like to tell the House that I have and I will take steps to ensure my innocence is proven. Just to tell the House I plan to take other steps to make sure this issue is dealt with in another form outside this Assembly. I do want to apologize to Mr. Ootes. Yesterday, when I made my off the cuff statement, in reading it over again, I seemed to imply that Mr. Ootes was in on some parasitic organization that was working on this. I did not mean that. I did not mean any disrespect to the Member. I have apologized to the Member in person, and I hope that will suffice and clear up the air for him and for his constituency.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I thank you very much. I wish you all a good spring. Tomorrow is my last day in the House as I am travelling on Saturday to other places. I would like to wish all of you a very good spring. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Replies to opening address. Mrs. Groenewegen.

Reply 4-13(5): Mrs. Groenewegen

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to speak today and not have to rush to the clock. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to provide what will be my last comments in this House with respect to the unsigned note I received. To understand the significance of the note and its timing, it is important for me to provide some background.

On January 27th, I made a Member's statement in which I stated, in case you think I embark on this mission of accountability and transparency lightly, I assure you I have considered the consequences. In spite of warnings and admonitions with the

accompanying details of what might happen to me if I do not adhere to this advice, I will continue to ask questions, in public, in the hopes of upholding the confidence of my constituents and the public in this government.

As further background, Mr. Speaker, to what I meant when I said warnings and admonitions, I will refer specifically to a few instances. I have already spoken in the House of being called to the Premier's office on November 24th. The two areas the Premier questioned me about were the issue of the ownership of the Lahm Ridge Tower and the issue of the arrangements surrounding the lease on the house that he leases from Mr. Mrdjenovich. The Premier stated that he would take appropriate action if I slandered him in checking into these items which I informed him I had been publicly confronted regarding during my most recent constituency meeting in Hay River. It was not a secret that I had made a public commitment at that time to check into these matters, and I do believe I have done so without slandering the Premier.

I had learned of the Lahm Ridge Tower lease and purchase at my home in Hay River from an article in the News North. After reading the article, I spoke with the deputy clerk, Mr. Schauerte. I asked if research could find out for me if the lease extension was signed before or after the property was sold. Before I got an answer to that question, the next day I received a call at my home again in reference to my research request. I was told that people were not pleased with my questions. At that point, I called Mr. Schauerte again, and I asked why my research request had not been kept confidential. I understood that the researcher would have contacted Public Works and Services to

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get the answer to the question, but others had now decided to get involved. Usually research materials are kept confidential, and Mr. Schauerte did confirm to me that it had been kept confidential, that if it had come from any place, perhaps, the Member who called was on a fishing expedition.

Other comments that were made as I proceeded to find answers included things like, being said to me, you are going to get hurt and you are going to get your head cut off. I have been approached by some people warning me that I should back off.

So although determined to find the answers to several outstanding questions, I hope now, Mr. Speaker, everyone can understand why I was not particularly amused when I received that unsigned note. Reprisals seemed to be on a lot of people's minds.

I was in the middle of a set of questions when I received the note. I promptly stopped and pondered what I should do about the note. I quickly fired off a note to my colleague, Mr. Picco, asking if he knew who had sent the unsigned note. I watched while he consulted some of his colleagues around him. It was then that I decided to table the note. Mr. Speaker, I was shocked by the note. When I tabled it, I noted that on one side it said Jane Groenewegen and I commented that my name was spelled correctly. I seldom receive notes in the House with my full name on them, most often it just says Jane G. on the outside. I was shortly, after that, advised by someone who I have respect for, that in their opinion, they recognized the handwriting and that Mr. Arlooktoo had written the note. I tell these things, so that people can understand how I began to arrive at the opinion that I formed.

The next day, the note was ruled as inadmissible by the Speaker because it was unsigned. Also, the next day I received a signed note from Mr. Arlooktoo. I compared the hand writing and though not a professional, I noted the similarities. I retrieved the tabled unsigned note and put it together with the note signed by Mr. Arlooktoo. During the next few days, Mr. Picco told me, more than once, that he thought Mr. Barnabas had written the note. I asked Mr. Barnabas once privately and was completely convinced when he denied it. Mr. Picco persisted in saying it was Mr. Barnabas, so I got the two of them together in Mr. Picco's office and I said, Ed, you tell Levi what you are telling people about this note. So Mr. Picco did, he said to Mr. Barnabas, I think you wrote the note. At that point, Mr. Speaker, I begged Mr. Barnabas, I said, please Levi, if you wrote the note, just tell me, this will be the end of it. You are my friend and it would mean nothing coming from you, referring to the note. He said he did not write the note and he left Mr. Picco's office visibly upset. I, again, completely trusted Mr. Barnabas' denial.

I held onto the notes for several days until I had a chance to speak with a friend who would have knowledge of forensic examiners. I received the name of a highly recommended examiner in British Columbia and forwarded copies of the notes and some other handwriting samples for reference to him. He indicated in his report that he believed the author

of the anonymous note and the note signed, and I quote, "Goo" to have been written by the same individual. In the meantime, I had also received a call from a close former working colleague of Mr. Arlooktoo indicating that they had recognized his handwriting from the original tabled document published in the newspaper as well. By this time, Mr. Speaker, I was becoming very convinced that Mr. Arlooktoo had penned the note. The Premier denied that it was any Member of his Cabinet, and then I tabled the forensic examiner's report. Mr. Arlooktoo later stood on a Point of Privilege, the offence being that by tabling the report, I had implied that he was lying.

The next morning was a Caucus meeting. I did not come in until around 10:00 a.m. Unbeknownst to me, the issue of the forensic report was on the Caucus agenda. Mr. Todd, as House Leader, came to my office and advised me of the meeting. He said, I should have been there, but since I was not, he was sent, as House Leader, to speak to me and this is what he said. He asked if I would stand up in the House today and apologize to Mr. Arlooktoo for tabling the report. I said no. He asked if I was aware that there could be a motion brought forward, a motion of censure to have me expelled from the Legislature for a period of time. My response was go for it. His third question was, Jane, if someone comes to you and tells you that they wrote the note and stands up in the House today, confesses and apologizes publicly, will you apologize to Mr. Arlooktoo? I said, and please listen very carefully because this is important, I said, Yes, I will, but only if I believe them. Mr. Todd returned to my office after a few minutes and told me that I should expect a visit from Mr. Barnabas. Noon came and passed. Around 1:00 p.m., Mr. Barnabas came to my office. He apologized. He said he wrote the note. I said, okay, write it for me again. I wrote the words on a piece of paper. In front of me he wrote the note. I said, thank you, Levi. I accept your apology. I believe you, and I will apologize to Mr. Arlooktoo. I did not make a secret of the fact that Mr. Barnabas had recreated the note for me. I then informed the House leader, and what followed in the House is on the public record.

Thinking that I had placed a tremendous amount of confidence in the report of the forensic examiner, I forwarded a second note, thinking he, like me, would be convinced that Mr. Barnabas had written the anonymous note. Apparently he was not convinced, but I told him that further handwriting samples would not be likely at this point in time. The media did ask

me for copies of Mr. Barnabas' handwriting which I would not provide. I felt it was up to him if he wanted them to see his handwriting or if he wanted to talk to them. They wanted to send it out for their own report, but the only samples of

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handwriting I have ever made public was by way of the two tablings in the House, the first anonymous note and then, the forensic report.

In summary, do I believe that Mr. Levi Barnabas wrote the anonymous note? For the record, Mr. Speaker, yes, I do. Do I think that he knew or would have cared if I had an \$800,000 loan with this government? No, I do not.

I am not impressed with the implication in the House yesterday that I was under some kind of obligation to provide Mr. Barnabas' hand writing to the media and that his denial to provide it to the media or speak to the media should, in any way, be construed as a refusal to give me a handwriting sample. He tells how he provided an exact copy, and I quote, "I note that this fact was not mentioned in the article or by Mrs. Groenewegen." I also take exception to, and I quote, "Mrs. Groenewegen's comments, if indeed they are accurately reported, suggest that I was lying when I admitted that I was author of the note to Mrs. Groenewegen." Mr. Speaker, I do not like the suggestion that I am a liar. Mr. Speaker, I would like to know which part of the article suggested that I thought Mr. Barnabas was lying. I only wish that Mr. Barnabas had been so concerned about the whole truth when he repeatedly denied to me and others that he had written the original note.

For the record, Mr. Speaker, absolutely everything that shows up in the quotation marks in the media reports is either directly taken from Hansard or does represent what I have said. What I do not claim in some cases is the slant, the headlines or the preamble to some questions posed by radio or television interviewers. I have no control over how people frame the questions or assemble the quotes, but everything in the quotations is what I said.

I cannot understand, the Premier keeps interrupting me here. I do not know what he is mumbling about.

On the other hand, I am amazed. I am amazed by some of the comments made by Mr. Arlooktoo in recent media interviews for which I have transcripts. For the record, I have never said that I am obsessed

with anything. I have never vowed to discredit the Premier because he might run in my riding. Mr. Speaker, I do not even know if I will run in my riding, let alone what someone else might do. If you want to talk about innuendo, rumour and misleading information on the record in media transcripts and Hansard, let us consider Mr. Arlooktoo's offensive remarks yesterday. He implied that I am dishonest and parasitic. In the media, he has represented that he could have had me kicked out or suspended by the Legislature. He has accused me of bringing up unimportant issues in this House. He has accused me of saying that he and the Premier put Levi up to writing the note. I did not bring this note issue up again, Mr. Speaker. I believe it was in response to media reports that it has come to the fore again. It seems that Mr. Arlooktoo has taken a lot of speculation and rumour regarding this note, perhaps from the public, perhaps from things he has heard said and attributed them to me in public forums.

Anyhow, I could rise on a point of privilege on all these matters, but I am not going to. The bottom line is that the House itself is the final judge of what is acceptable and frankly, Mr. Speaker, I do not have a tremendous amount of faith in that judgment at this point in time. This is my last word on the note in this forum. If it comes up in another forum, Mr. Speaker, it will be in the courts in a civil law suit for libel and slander. Mr. Speaker, I am not now, and never will be a sweep things under the carpet kind of person. However, I can definitely be a forgive and move on kind of person. I am asking all Members of this House to consider my perspective on this, what they might learn from this, how they would have felt having received this note, given the circumstances, perhaps how they could have acted differently, given those who now say that they knew all along and did not consider it important enough to take measures to help resolve it before it got to this point.

To the Members who have been supportive, I thank you. To the ones who joined the mob mentality of what feels like a bunch of school yard bullies, I think the public is pretty aware of who they are.

I do not sense much support in this Legislature, Mr. Speaker, but I will carry on with the overwhelming support of the public who approach me everywhere I go to thank me for what I am doing. Just this morning, as I rushed through the mall with my little girl, I had to stop. A young man said, hello, Jane as if he knew me. I stopped, I shook his hand, and I said, who are you? He replied, I am nobody, just a big fan of yours. Mr. Speaker, it is for my constituents,

northerners, known or anonymous, I want to tell them that the note issue is over for me in this forum, but I assure you that I will continue to pursue actions which will bring back the confidence to this government.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. During the last week or so, Members have been naming individuals outside this House who cannot protect themselves. They also even mentioned some staff members who cannot respond to things that have been said in this House. I would like to remind the Members of a ruling that I made back in the 12th Assembly, which carries into this Assembly, regarding the naming of names and also in imputing motives. For the record, so that in the future when Members do ask questions and make statements, that they have to remember you cannot mention names of people who cannot respond to you. I have asked the Clerk's Office to draft something up. This is the concern I have with regard to the increasing concerns about references made to government officials and private citizens in this Assembly.

This is not the first time this matter has been an issue in the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories. On March 10, 1995, during the 12th Assembly, the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Nerysoo, raised on a point of order concerning a tabling of unsigned letters and the use of individuals names in the House.

At this time, I would like to remind Members of the substance of the ruling I made on that point of order, and I quote, "As Members are aware, the privilege of being protected from prosecution for what is said in this House is a fundamental and long standing right that has been tested and consistently upheld

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in many court cases. However, it has also been a long standing convention that the rights of individuals outside of this Legislature are protected. The privilege we have, as Members and as a Legislature, also carry with them a great responsibility to ensure that those outside this House are protected. The way in which Members conduct themselves individually and collectively reflects on the institution of the Legislative Assembly. The respect in which Members

hold this institution is clearly evident. In order to uphold and enhance this respect, I will not permit comments, whether written or spoken, in this Legislature, that have the tendency to question the personal integrity of others outside the House or impute motives to those unable to respond or which have the impact of adversely reflecting on the character of those persons outside of this Legislature."

I intend to uphold the spirit and intent of this past ruling and would caution all Members to consider comments they intend to make with that advice in mind.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Morin.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Tabled Document 60-13(5): Consolidation of Government Contract Regulations

Tabled Document 61-13(5): Financial Administration Manual Directive 808-1

Tabled Document 62-13(5): Excerpt from Public Works and Services Purchasing Guidelines - Obtaining Bids

Tabled Document 63-13(5): Excerpt from Public Works and Services Purchasing Guidelines - Principles of Tendering

Tabled Document 64-13(5): Excerpt from Public Works and Services Purchasing Guidelines - Introduction to Proposals

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Further to Mr. Picco's oral questions, 259-13(5), tabling of following documents: Consolidation of Government Contract Regulations; Financial Administration Manual Directive 808-1; Public Works and Services Purchasing Guidelines - Obtaining Bids; Public Works and Services Purchase Guidelines - Principles of Tendering; Public Works and Services Purchasing Guidelines -Introduction to Proposals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Tabling of documents. Mr. Todd.

Tabled Document 65-13(5): Excerpt from The Budget Plan 1998 - Finance Minister Martin's Budget Address

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following documents entitled, "Excerpt from the Budget Plan, 1998", tabled in the House of Commons by the Honourable Paul Martin, Minister of Finance, February 24, 1998. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Tabling of documents. Mr. Morin.

Tabled Document 66-13(5): NWT Housing Corporation 1996-97 Annual Report

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document entitled, "NWT Housing Corporation, 1996-97 Annual Report". Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Tabling of documents. Mr. Evaloarjuk.

Tabled Document 67-13(5): Pond Inlet District Education Authority Resolution Regarding Education Funding Shortages

Tabled Document 68-13(5): Package of Letters Supporting Pond Inlet DEA Resolution on Education Funding Shortages

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table two documents. The first is a Resolution from Pond Inlet District Education Authority stating their concern with lack of funding for the teachers of the NWT. The second is a package of letters supporting the resolution. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Tabling of document. Item 14, notices of motion. Mr. Krutko.

ITEM 14: NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 14-13(5): Coordination of Inter-Jurisdictional and Inter-Departmental Initiatives

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, March 2, 1998, I will move the following motion.

I move, seconded by the honourable Member from Kivallivik, that the Government of the Northwest Territories formulate, in consultation with all affected parties, a policy to affect the integration and inter-jurisdictional cooperation necessary to facilitate the development of comprehensive agreements between governments and land claims representatives, but not limiting them to the environment, wildlife management, economic development, trade and tourism and social and cultural development. Further, it is recommended that the comprehensive agreement board consider of all parties participating by establishment of co-ordination the negotiation and implementation of this agreement.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Motion 13-13(5), resolution of pay equity issue in the Northwest Territories. This motion will stand down until tomorrow. Item 17, first reading of bills. Mr. Todd.

ITEM 17: FIRST READING OF BILLS

BILL 7: An Act to Amend the Territorial Court Act

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HON. JOHN TODD:

I move, Mr. Speaker, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Territorial Court Act be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you colleagues.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? We do not have a quorum. Ring the bell, please. The Chair recognizes the quorum. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Territorial Court Act has had first reading. 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; 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) and Tabled Document 19-13(5). I do not have any presiding officers available. Does the House wish to appoint someone to chair? We will take a break. The bell will ring at the call of the Chair.

--Break

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

I call the committee to order. We have a number of items for consideration by the committee and I would like to ask Mr. Ootes for direction. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That we continue with Bill 8, Appropriation Act, 1998-99; Committee Report 2-13(5); Committee Report 3-13(5); Committee Report 4-13(5); Committee Report 5-13(5) and that we continue with the Department of Transportation. Following that, that we consider Bill 14, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act and then carry on with the Department of Renewable Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Could I ask the Minister if he would like to bring in any witnesses? Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Sergeant-at-Arms, bring in the witnesses and seat them please. Is the Minister prepared to proceed on highways, page 10-14, activity summary, highways until the witnesses come?

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Yes, Mr. Chairman, I am prepared to go ahead.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. We are on page 10-14, highways, Department of Transportation, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$16.628 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Could I have the Minister introduce his witnesses, please.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, to my left I have Masood Hassan, the director of planning and to my right the deputy minister, Mr. Ron Williams, to his right Mr. Peter Vician, the director of highways.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you and welcome to the committee. We are on detail of capital, page 10-15, highways, buildings and works, headquarters, total region, \$100,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Buildings and works, Fort Smith region, total region, page 10-16, \$13.646 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Building and works, Inuvik region, total region, \$3.2 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Total buildings and works, \$16.946 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Acquisition of equipment, total region, \$634,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Total acquisition of equipment, \$634,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Total activity, \$17.580 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Page 10-17, activities summary, ferries, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$3.9 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Page 10-18, detail of capital, ferries, buildings and works, Inuvik region, total region, \$20,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Total building and works, \$20,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Acquisition of equipment, Fort Smith region, total region, \$25,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Acquisition of equipment, Inuvik region, total region, \$25,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Total acquisition of equipment, \$50,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Total activity, \$70,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Activity summary, community marine, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, page 10-19, \$225,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Page 10-20, detail of capital, community marine, building and works, headquarters, total region, \$50,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Building and works, Baffin region, total region, \$650,000. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, under Baffin region, \$650,000, I have a question on the Iqaluit and Apex Harbour enhancements. The current project will be finished this year and we are very pleased with that project in my community, but we did have some meetings with the Minister and his staff on a harbour plan for development of other breakwaters and that. I am wondering if at this time the Minister has been contacted by the community to prepare a briefing that the Minister had committed to in November or December when we had a meeting with the mayor of Iqaluit and the deputy mayor here in Yellowknife? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, yes, we have been contacted by the municipality and we are planning to hold further consultation meetings with them in the near future. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Total region, Baffin, \$650,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Building and works, Keewatin region, total region, \$1.146 million. Mr. Henry and Mr. O'Brien. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On Keewatin hydrographic survey, and I notice there are additional hydrographic surveys, are they in part funded by federal funds? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the figure we see here in the Keewatin hydrographic survey of \$964,000 is our share of the survey. The federal government also has a share. Their share is \$1.65 million and it is not shown in this because this shows only our share of it. Their share is 65 percent of the total project costs. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to know if the Minister is in Ottawa lobbying for many more of these types of projects? Does that apply to all the hydrographic surveys that are being done? Are they all funded to 65 percent federal dollars? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this particular Keewatin hydrographic survey is 65 percent and the one previous to it, specifically, the Rankin Inlet hydrographic survey, was also 65 percent covered by the federal government. We are in Ottawa lobbying with the federal counterpart to seek other projects and also further funding. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

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

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Following the same line of questions as my colleague regarding the hydrographic surveying, for the most part, this is work that is required and necessary. Can the Minister update this House as to what actual work is left to be completed regarding the surveying in the Keewatin?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

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

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this is the second year of a three-year project. Last summer, to recap, so you can get a perfect picture, the hydrographic survey was done for the Keewatin communities of Arviat, Whale Cove, Chesterfield Inlet and Chesterfield Narrows. This year's hydrographic survey will include Coral Harbour as well as the intra-community shipping corridors, which link up the surveys

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of the specific communities. That is the project for this year. Next year's projected plan is to finalize and produce the hydrographic and electronic navigation charts, next year, but this year, we are continuing with the project that should be a substantial amount of work. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

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

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the Minister saying the corridor work will not be completed until the following year, and it will be two years before all the work is completed?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

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

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, all the work will be done this year. By the end of the season, we will have all the work done and the following year to finish off the maps and putting it together in chart form, but all the work will be done this summer.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

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

MR. O'BRIEN:

Mr. Chairman, is it safe to say that the work that is taking place now is part and parcel of the schedule of work that was contemplated over the last few years? There are no changes in what we talked about last year and what is happening now to complete the work. There are no alterations to the plan?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

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

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Mr. Chairman, there is no alteration to the plan we were talking about last year. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

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

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In reference to the \$100,000 to construct the community work in Arviat, which has been ongoing over the last two years. This \$100,000, what will that be used to complete?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

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

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, to date we have spent approximately \$526,000. This coming year, we anticipate spending \$100,000 to finish off the community wharf and also put in a boat launch. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

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

MR. O'BRIEN:

That is fine, Mr. Chairman. Those are all the questions I have today. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

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

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Mr. Chairman, just a couple of questions in terms of jurisdiction responsibilities offshore. Do we, in fact, as a government, have jurisdiction or legal authority for offshore issues? If we do not, why are we paying for hydrographic surveys and not requiring the federal government to do that? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the hydrographic survey in the Keewatin is primarily aimed at making the approaches to our communities safer for resupply and dry cargo. We are trying to find a cheaper way of doing it with the support of the Canadian federal government, we are achieving that. It is a cooperative approach that is aimed towards further development into the Keewatin area. There is potential for mining. There is exploration going on and if it is successful in developing into its full potential, the mining industry, we need safe routes into our communities and in that area. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just so I am clear, in the normal course of events, if we did not have a vested interest in the outcome of the hydrographic surveys, the normal course of events would be for offshore waters, they would be solely, normally the responsibility of the federal government, but because it is to our benefit and to the benefit of the communities in the east, we are working with the federal government in terms of cost-sharing this?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is the purpose of our involvement. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

The final question then, Mr. Chairman, is it the federal government which is actually doing these surveys and we are cost-sharing them? Do they have their experts and their people do all that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Yes, Mr. Chairman. The Canadian Coast Guard has a ship that is specifically designed to do hydrographic work. They have the crew and the expertise. It is true that they are doing the work for us. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Mr. Miltenberger

MR. MILTENBERGER:

This will be my last question. Does the Minister have an idea if, in fact, the territorial government had not cost-shared this with the federal government, where would this be on the priority list in terms of getting it done, if the federal government was expected to totally fund this?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this department, on behalf of the Government of the Northwest

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Territories, had initiated this project. If we had not initiated this project to bring it higher on the list of priorities for the federal government and if it was left up to the federal government, it would be a very low priority, but because of the different initiatives in the Keewatin area, we pursued it and were successful in coming to an arrangement where they are taking care of 65 percent of the total cost of the project. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Building and works, Keewatin, total region, \$1.146 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Total building and works, \$1.846 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Contributions, headquarters, total region, \$104,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. On page 10-21, contributions, Kitikmeot, total region, \$50,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Agreed. Thank you. Total contributions, \$150,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Total activity, page 10-21, \$2 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, on the total activity, is it possible at this time, for the Minister if the municipality of Iqaluit makes a request to have some projects moved into the five-year capital plan, after consultation with the department some time in the next few weeks to have that done? I know there is

not any money identified now, but I am saying in the five-year capital plan, so when the new Nunavut government is set up, the money would be there for a specific project, if that is what the community desires? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we intend to consult with the community of Iqaluit, and for the five-year capital plan, anything is possible. However, for the new Nunavut government, we have to consult with the Interim Commissioner for the later part of the five-year capital plan. We are saying that anything is possible into the five-year capital plan. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Total activity, \$2 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Activity summary, community access road, operations and maintenance. Total operations and maintenance, \$75,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. On page 10-23, detail of capital, community access road, building and works, headquarters, \$20,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Total region, \$20,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Building and works, Keewatin Region, total region, \$100,000. Agreed? Mr. Rabesca.

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the community access road. The road to Lac La Martre River Falls, was there any money spent on it last year or is this new money that is coming through this year?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Rabesca. I am on total region, Keewatin. Is your question referring to the Fort Smith region? Mr. Rabesca.

MR. RABESCA:

Yes, are we on the Fort Smith region or Keewatin? I will wait.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Rabesca. Building and works, Keewatin region, total region \$100,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Total buildings and works, \$120,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Contributions, Fort Smith region. Mr. Rabesca.

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the contributions Fort Smith region, the access road to Lac La Martre River Falls. I am curious about last year's allocation. Did we have the same amount last year working towards the Lac La Martre Falls or is this a new one for this summer?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Rabesca. Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Mr. Chairman, I am told that we did spend about \$40,000 on the access road to Lac La Martre River Bridge last year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Total

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region, Fort Smith. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like some clarification about the access roads. I noticed on page 10-15, in the budget which we have already agreed to, there is a Nahanni Butte access road for \$200,000, yet all the access other roads are listed under community access roads. Can the Minister explain about that particular issue? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Nahanni Butte road is actually a winter road which has been upgraded to a fair weather road, so we put it underneath the highways program. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can I assume then in the budget it should not be called an access road any more, it should be called something else so there is no confusion? Is that what I am hearing? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Yes, perhaps, so there will be no confusion we should change the title of that project. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Total region, Fort Smith, total region, \$100,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Contributions, Inuvik region, total region, \$131,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Contributions, Baffin, total region, \$112,000. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I had some discussion earlier before Christmas with the Minister of Transportation along with the mayor and deputy mayor of Iqaluit. We had requested money for the community access roads which Iqaluit has never in recent memory accessed. We were not able to do that for this fiscal year. Could the Minister ensure that the money for the community access road discussed previously could be included in the five-year capital plan for next year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it is proper to go through the process and I think within the next five years the five-year capital plan, we have limited dollars in this program. The next couple of years has been spoken for so it is certainly within the five-year capital plan as highly probable that we could include the request from the Member for Iqaluit so that we look at the access road into the Sylvia Grinnell Park. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Total regions, Baffin, total region, \$112,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Contributions, Keewatin region, total region, \$160,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Contributions, Kitikmeot, total region, page 10-25, \$112,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Total contributions, \$615,000. Agreed? Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On all these projects you do not have any prior years costs, so are these new projects? The same total projections or capital projections are the same amount as this year's capital estimates. Are some of these ongoing or are all of these new and this is the only amount that is going to be spent on it?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, they are not all new, most of them are ongoing and because of the nature of the contribution on a yearly basis the prior years are not shown on these documents.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Mr. Antoine, I am going to have to ask you to repeat that last part because your microphone was not on.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am just saying that the way these documents have been formulated, it does not show the year to year contributions which these access roads are. Although, some of them are ongoing for a few years and if the Members would like to see documentation of the ongoing costs of some of these projects, we will provide that information. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Total contributions, \$615,000. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister answered part of my question. Does the Minister have or his staff has a handle on approximately how many years this program has been initiated and the number of dollars that have been expended on it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this very highly successive program of the community access roads was first initiated in the year 1990-91. Yes, we do have figures of how much was expended every year and we could

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provide that information if the honourable Member wishes as well. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Mr. Chairman, are these community access roads a part of a bigger plan? Could they be used as a highway system? Sometime in the future, is there any plan available for the use of these roads as a potential highway at some time or is it strictly for recreational purposes? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, these community access roads are local roads that are initiated by the community. They are used for hunting purposes to get members of the community in the hunting areas as well as accessing recreational areas, perhaps a river, some distance or lake or another bay, a better place to launch a boat. There

are a variety of different reasons why these roads are put into place and each one is different from the other. No, there is no overall plan or strategy to eventually use these roads into highways. I think this department is aware that we should look at the overall plan to see what the possibilities are of eventually utilizing some of these access roads as eventual connections between communities. Perhaps it is a way to look at it in the general overall plan. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Total contributions, \$615,000. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Mr. Chairman, in regard to the trail in Aklavik, for \$40,000, that is just a make work project in the summer where people are hired to make trails for skidoos or three wheelers so that they can get out of town. It is not roads in regard to driving vehicles, we are talking trails here. If you look at the amount of money, \$30,000 to hire four or five young adults for a couple of weeks in the summer, that is all that is for. I do not think we are in the process of building roads and in the case of Aklavik this is just another small economic opportunity that communities look forward to every summer to be able to do that. If you take in account the amount of money these communities are getting for that money you cannot get too many loads of gravel if you want to purchase it in regard to \$40,000 worth as that is basically three truckloads of gravel. That is it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. That was a general comment rather than a question. Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the honourable Member is correct, his budget is very small and popular with the communities. Some of the communities use this limited funding to do some make work projects and utilize their own equipment to make certain sections of the road every year. I know that in Aklavik, it is going to be a substantial amount before they get into access roads to the foothills of Richardson Mountain. We work very closely with the community leaders and we try to accommodate their wishes the best we can with the limited resources we have. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Total contributions, \$615,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Total activities, \$735,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Page 10-26, activity summary, motor vehicle, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$2.218 million. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would like the Minister to advise me as to the amount of contract services from Alberta that are provided by the province that with some training could be provided by northerners in the territories? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Williams.

MR. WILLIAMS:

Yes, there are contracts that the departments have for the training of department staff, particularly in the safe operation, motor vehicle safe driving, advanced off-road ice driving techniques, similar for gravel. It is similar to a defensive driving course from the theory point of view and then there is a track set up either on the ice or on the gravel where various manoeuvres are practiced through pylons. To answer your question specifically, I would think with the appropriate training and background this service could be provided by northern companies. I personally have gone through the course. A couple of them, one that is put on by the department and one that is put on by a private company in Yellowknife, just to assess the differences in approaches towards this type of training. With some training enhancement and facilities, this most likely could be provided

locally, but in the past the Alberta Motor Association has been providing it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would the Minister commit to re-assessing all services that are provided outside of the territories and commit to re-assessing the department's requirements and doing everything they can to use northern contractors to ensure those northern contractors have the opportunity to learn what the department's requirements are and be encouraged to obtain those requirements, so that as much of the economic spin-offs of this government can stay in the territories? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a very good idea. The department has been wanting to do that all along. Northern companies that provide the service will require some upgrading and more training to deliver this, not only to this department, but it should be made available to people in the north where different companies or agencies may want to get this type of training. Yes, we will reassess all the services from outside the territories. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Motor vehicles. I have Mr. Henry and Mr. Krutko. Mr. Henry.

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MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister has answered my question. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. On the list under motor vehicles, I have Mr. Krutko. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the whole area of privatization of motor vehicles was a concern

to the committee in light of the increases in the cost of obtaining a driver's licence. Members want the government to be aware that the whole idea of privatization of the delivery of services was that there was not going to be an increase to the consumers. Because of that, the committee was concerned about the effort of privatization. We do have some doubts regarding other efforts in the whole area of privatization. I would ask the Minister what is being done to consider looking at the increase of costs to the consumer and have they considered retracking that to make it a more favourable process for the consumer in regard to licences?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, there is no plan by this department to privatize any more of the services that we provide. This particular last privatization of motor vehicles was the department's private issue of introducing a new fee structure. The new fee structure is the concern by the Members. The GNWT did not gain any new revenues from the privatization of issuing this service. However, this slight increase in fees goes to the private sector which has taken over this responsibility. The department has no intention of changing the new fee structure at this time. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Regarding the area of privatization, we noted there was not going to be an increased cost to the consumer to obtain the same service. We now see there is. There are these extra service charges that were not there when the government was doing the same thing. Calls that we have received from different constituents are because they are seeing an increase in licensing. The service they are presently getting before those increases is not there. I would like to ask the Minister, is there another way of dealing with these increases instead of having a service charge, if there could just be a flat rate, which there was before?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the privatization was effective April 1, 1997, and what happened was we no longer as a government were providing this service. We were using our staff before that. Now that we privatized it, we are no longer using our staff. We did not have any increase in the amount from the department. No new revenues from this privatization came to the GNWT. However, we gain by not using our staff. We had a reduction in that manner. However, the providers in the private sector had to get some fee for these services. This is where the new fee was introduced. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Motor vehicles. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we have all realized the higher costs to live and operate in the north. I am thinking more particularly about seniors who are on a fixed income in many cases. Different municipalities and governments have tried their best to provide opportunities and savings to make it a little easier on our seniors to ensure they are still able to stay in the territories. Has the department ever provided or looked at waiving the fee, as it were, for senior citizens to obtain driver's licences? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am told that the department has not looked at introducing any discounts for seniors in the past. However, we are open to exploring those possibilities. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Chairman. I appreciate the Minister's straight forwardness in recognizing additional costs seniors face and I would appreciate if the Minister would have his officials look at using a figure of 60 or 65 and assessing whether the department could

subsidize seniors to help defer some of the costs of living in the north. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this department will look at the suggestion the honourable Member made and explore these ideas of looking at how such a proposal could be introduced in the department. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Motor vehicles. I have Mr. Ootes, who has not spoken yet, and Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the privatization of licensing, I heard the Minister state there are no plans to privatize anything further. When they do, what I hope they would keep in mind is, when they privatized this particular licensing operation it increased the cost for the public, as a number of Members have already stated, but the cost to the government, in fact, decreased. What needs to be remembered is, when we privatize there should not be an increase for the public. In the case of Yellowknife; for example, where it is privatized and people buy their licences, people in a community where there is no privatization pay the same thing. In other words, people in Yellowknife will pay more, presumably, than in an outlying community. I do not have a problem with that particular point at the moment, but the government, because it saved money, should have looked at this and said, look, we can reduce our rate. Let the agent have their \$8.00 plus tax, keep the fee at \$65.00 or whatever it was. This is how it should have been handled.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I do not think there was question, but I will allow the Minister to respond if he wishes to. Mr. Minister.

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HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The plan of the department is not to privatize any more of the services we provide. I understand the concern of the

Member. I just wanted to mention that I regret the increase of the cost to the public on motor vehicle licences and services as much as any of the measures we have taken in trying to address the government's overall fiscal position. This was part of a small attempt by this department in this activity to try to add to the budget restraint that we had undertaken. The privatization of this activity, although the revenue to this department did not increase, the cost of providing that service decreased because we were no longer using our staff to do that. There was a savings to the government in the long-run and if you work it through, it helped in a small way towards the financial position this government was in. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. I have Mr. Erasmus. We are considering the Department of Transportation, motor vehicles activity, motor vehicles, Mr. Erasmus

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under public safety, I have been contacted by a few people who are not able to park in front of their own homes because there is a t-intersection and they do not have a driveway, so they are unable to park there. What is the purpose of not allowing vehicles to park in a t-intersection?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it is a safety issue so that whenever somebody stops at the t-intersection, there is always a possibility of over running the stop sign and perhaps causing some damage to any vehicles parked on the other side of the road. It is the city of Yellowknife jurisdiction at this time, from what I am told. That it is mainly a safety factor that has been used in all other jurisdictions. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I realize it is a municipal issue, but it is regulated by a territorial act. It must be the Motor Vehicles Act or something. I just wanted to thank the Minister for that information, Mr. Chairman,

but I also want to indicate that it is not strictly a municipal issue because I believe it is regulated by a territorial act. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. On page 10-26, motor vehicles, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$2.218 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Next page. Motor vehicles, building and works, Fort Smith region, total region, \$1 million. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could we find out where this weigh scale is being relocated to?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Williams.

MR. WILLIAMS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The location of the new weigh scale facility is just immediately north of the intersection of the Hay River Highway and Mackenzie Highway intersection, so almost in the exact location of where the current highway maintenance facility is. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you for the information. Building and works, Fort Smith region, total region, \$1 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total building and works, \$1 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total activity, \$1 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. You have on page 10-28, detail of grants and contributions, contributions, total contributions, \$14,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. On next page, an information item, active positions. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. On page 10-30, detail of work performed on behalf of third parties. If you move onto the next page, 10-31, total department, \$5.043 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Then we go back to summary, I believe. Program summary on page 10-5, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$56.162 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total capital, \$29.857 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total expenditures, \$86.019 million.
Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Does the committee agree that consideration of the Department of Transportation estimate is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I would like to thank the honourable Minister and the witnesses for appearing before the committee. Thank you. I would like to call the committee back to order please. Thank you. We have agreed earlier that we were going to deal with Bill 14, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act. I believe Mr. Ng will read the opening remarks on behalf of the Department of Justice.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and colleagues, on behalf of the Management and Services Board and all Members of Caucus, I would like to present amendments to the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act. These amendments are primarily for the purpose of bringing our pension legislation into line with federal tax legislation and the Revenue Canada rules regarding pension plans. Mr. Chairman, these amendments continue the pension reform that this Legislature began in 1995 and 1996 when we eliminated the supplementary plan for new Members, and bring our pension plan cost and benefits well into line with our employees' pension plan and other employment pension plans in Canada.

Mr. Chairman, the legislation makes the following changes:

1. The age at which a Member can receive a full pension has been changed from 55 years to 60 years, 30 years of service or a combination of age

plus service. This is more in line with pension benefits available in the public and private sector.

2. The contribution rate for Members has been changed to reflect the fact that Members no longer contribute to or are to accrue benefits under the supplementary plan. This amendment has been made retroactive to reflect the fact that the supplementary plan was eliminated in 1995. Again, the new contribution rate is similar to the rate paid by our employees in their existing pension plan.

3. Maximum benefits payable to Members have been reduced for all service earned after January 1, 1992.

4. Pension benefits available to spouses of deceased Members have been amended to comply with federal pension legislation.

5. The actuarial increase for pensions not taken at retirement age, but collected by former Members at some later date, is being eliminated in both the registered and the supplementary plan, effective January 1, 1998. This will mean a one-time payout from the plans' accumulated surplus, in respect of some former Members who retired after the age of 55 and who had not been receiving the benefit of this actuarial increase. After this one-time payout, no Member will be to an actuarial increase in their pension, regardless of how old the Member is when the Member collects his or her pension.

6. A minor amendment is being made to the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act to bring into force a section on spousal death benefits which should have been brought into force at the time the supplementary plan was created.

7. Finally the proposed legislation would allow Members to elect to take their pension funds out of the Assembly plan and transfer these funds into a Registered Retirement Savings Plan of the Member's choice. This amendment has no cost implications to the Assembly Pension Plan, yet provides Members with some flexibility in terms of managing their pension fund.

Mr. Chairman, I repeat my opening comments that these amendments are required in order to comply with federal tax legislation. The amendments do not expand Member's pension benefits, in fact, they are intended to reduce the amount of pension benefits that are available to Members as required by federal statute. They are a positive step in the pension

reform that this Legislature began at the beginning of the 13th Assembly. I would be pleased to answer any questions that Members may have on the effect of these amendments.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. I am advised we can go right down to general comments. Before I open the floor for general comments, I would like to ask the Minister to take the witness table and bring in the witness. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Mr. Minister: Yes, thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Do we agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Proceed, Mr. Minister. Mr. Minister, for the record please introduce the witnesses to the committee.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, to my left David Hamilton, Clerk of the Assembly. To my right Diane Buckland, legislative counsel, Department of Justice. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Welcome to the committee. The floor is now open for general comments from the floor if there are any. Do you wish to go clause by clause? Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the Minister's opening statement he says we are going to bring these amendments into line with the rest of Canada. Could he elaborate a little more on the reason for these amendments and exactly how that is going to happen. Are we going to get the same thing as MPs in Ottawa or other Legislatures across the country? Is that the intention of this legislation?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. If you wish to designate one of your witnesses to respond. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, primarily it is to bring the Legislative Assembly retirement plans in line with our employee's pension plans and with other

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employment pension plans across Canada and not in line with the federal plans.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the Minister just clarify that issue of bringing our pensions into line with other jurisdictions? We made a motion a while back - two years ago to cut our pension plan by three percent as a part of our deficit reduction. Is this bill bringing that motion into legal effect even though we have not been paying, we cut our pensions two years ago?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, primarily the amendments before us are reflective conform with federal income tax regulations. As I indicated in my opening comments, some of those things like the age of eligibility without penalty and maximum benefits as a result of years served and eliminating the actuarial increase and having the option of transferring out of the plan after having served.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Mr. Chairman, I just want the Minister to confirm his point. When we as a Legislative Assembly agreed to cut our pensions two and a half years ago, that took effect when the motion was made.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. We are dealing with Bill 14, clause 1. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 2. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 3. Agreed?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. On page 2, clause 4. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 5. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Clause 6. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 7 of Bill 14. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 8. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 9 of Bill 14, on clause 8. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Mr. Chairman, could you slow down a bit please? I am unable to keep up.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 9, Bill 14. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 10, page 10. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Part 3, coming into force, clause 11. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 12, Bill 14. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Bill as a whole. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Does the committee agree that Bill 14, is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Bill 14, is now ready for third reading. I thank the Minister and the witnesses.

--Break

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

I call the committee to order and as previously agreed we will revert back to Bill 8, Appropriation Act, 1998-99, Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. I will invite the Minister responsible for the department, Mr. Kakfwi, for his opening comments on the department estimates. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to begin my remarks by highlighting some of the achievements in the first full year of operation of this very large and complex department.

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Mr. Chairman, the primary goal of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development is to support the creation of jobs through the development of an economy that is sustainable and provides maximum benefits to northerners. Our approach is to work in partnership with the private sector and communities to create employment.

The Northern Employment Strategy, which is coordinated by RWED, resulted in an increase of \$8.5 million to several departmental funding programs, in particular, the Business Development Fund, Community Futures and the NWT Development Corporation. These additional funds plus existing departmental contribution and loan funds stimulated economic projects with a total value of \$34 million which created about 400 full-time and 1,000 part-time jobs.

Several special circumstances this year prompted us to provide additional support to businesses and economic development. The first was the low number of forest fires. This resulted in reallocation of funding, including \$1.2 million to the NWT Development

Corporation, almost \$300,000 for marketing of aboriginal arts and crafts, \$125,000 to Community Mobilization Partnership to build capacity for resource development opportunities and \$100,000 to assist with the organization of the first Aboriginal Tourism Operators Conference. This Legislature also supported the reallocation of about \$1 million to the Department of Justice. The second set of circumstances was the general economic climate generated by low interest rates and the closure of several large northern mines. This resulted in the decision to roll back interest rates for loans provided by the Business Credit Corporation.

Communities want to take control of their local economy. To support the growing demand by communities, our department has transferred 23 economic development positions to communities. Recognizing that special support is required to develop the economy in small communities, the Community Economic Development Services division has been created. Their programs and services will support Business Development Centres being created through Community Futures, promote partnerships with other funding agencies and the private sector, research and distribute information needed for economic planning and monitor the performance of RWED programs and our economy. RWED has also followed direction on privatization and continues to increase opportunities for communities to deliver programs, especially in the areas of forest fire management, forest management and parks and tourism. The last major achievement relates to the transfer from the federal government and expansion of the Community Futures Program.

The intent behind this program is to establish autonomous boards, composed of regional, experienced business people, who will develop local and regional economic plans. These boards have the authority to develop and manage a loan and loan guarantee program. RWED supports establishment of these boards and development of economic strategies and receives an annual report on their disbursements. The new boards in Sahtu and Kitikmeot are beginning operations and implementation is close for the remaining boards in the Deh Cho, South Slave and North Slave regions.

Mr. Chairman, a second program area I would like to highlight is diamonds. To date, we have been working closely with the federal government and industry in gaining entry into the exclusive club of diamond producing countries. This has required an extraordinary investment in time and resources. We

have had to learn about this new industry, lobby the federal government and BHP to maximize benefits for northerners and address environmental protection and regulatory concerns.

Gaining knowledge about the diamond industry has been critical in establishing a clear vision on how to maximize benefits for northerners. In the past year, I have personally met with many diamond industry experts and I have ensured that other northerners could benefit from the knowledge of these people.

RWED has also been vigilant in reviewing environmental protection measures for the Ekati Mine. Our concerns formed part of the federal report which resulted in BHP's commitment to revise its Construction Phase Environmental Management Plan. RWED is providing advice to the company in the development of their Operational Phase Environmental Management Plan. We continue to cost share and support the West Kitikmeot/Slave Study, which is addressing information gaps relating to managing exploration and development in this area.

The final achievements I will highlight relate to aboriginal involvement in resource management. After over ten years of negotiations, studies and consultation; the Mackenzie River Basin Management Board was established this year. This board provides an interjurisdictional forum for the protection of water quality and quantity for this river system, which affects the lives of almost everyone in the western Arctic. The GNWT may appoint two members. Mr. Bob McLeod, assistant deputy minister, RWED has been appointed for a one year period, after which I will assess the option of appointing a non-government person. Western NWT aboriginal organizations are also being contacted to provide nominations for a second member who shall be aboriginal.

Aboriginal people in the North and South Slave regions have had a number of concerns relating to fishing and tourism, two important economic activities. We have recently submitted a

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nomination to the federal government to appoint an aboriginal person to the Fresh Water Fish Marketing Board. Mr. Len Cardinal, a seasoned commercial fisherman on Great Slave Lake, will bring his first hand experience and knowledge of the challenges and opportunities for this fishery to this board. I have also been working to reach agreement with aboriginal

organizations in the North Slave area on a process for issuing tourism outfitter licences. Completing these agreements will help facilitate the growth of tourism in this region.

Mr. Chairman, I would now like to review where we are going in 1998-99. My first comments relate to changes I made during this department's first year of operation.

In small communities, the traditional economy remains important, especially in reducing dependency on imported goods. I have kept my commitment to increase the contribution funding for the major support program for hunters, the Community Harvester Assistance Program. I have also made an effort to inform all regions and communities that to date have not participated in the Western Harvester Support Program of the opportunity to create their own program to promote the local renewable resources economy.

I have also directed the department and the NWT Development Corporation to enhance product and market development and training for our traditional northern arts and crafts. Our recent participation at the first Canadian Indigenous Arts Festival in Arizona convinced me that this economic sector can create occupations for our young people that are based on our unique, northern cultures. In my recent meeting with the NWT Development Corporation, I have asked the board of directors to make recommendations on how this corporation can work more closely with RWED and with other funding agencies in meeting GNWT economic objectives. The board is also developing a work plan to prepare its operations for division.

The addition of a small diamonds division is the final structural change I have made to the department. I believe it is essential that our government has its own expertise if we are to make informed decisions in developing this industry in cooperation with the federal government and the private sector.

The two major challenges I see for 1998-99 are developing management strategies to balance economic needs with environmental protection requirements and completing preparations for division which includes fostering strong economic climates for each new territory.

Finalization of the Protected Areas Strategy will be a major step in supporting environmental protection and conservation objectives while providing greater

certainty for development. Regional and community organizations have become actively involved in contributing to this strategy. The Deh Cho First Nations and Fort Resolution will hold workshops in March. The Gwich'in will shortly release a draft Land Use Management Plan which addresses protected areas. The Sahtu has been successful in having the federal government designate Scented Grass Hill and Grizzly Bear Mountain as National Historic Sites. The completed Protected Areas Strategy should identify areas of natural and cultural significance and various levels of protection in relation to development activities. The partners include federal agencies, aboriginal organizations, industry and other stakeholders, who agreed in March, 1997, that the process should be community driven. A major conference of all partners is being planned for this spring to build consensus towards finalizing the strategy and how it could be implemented.

Another area where RWED must take measures to balance economic and environmental goals is addressing the conservation of land, air and water resources and the emerging issue of global climate change. This year, I have the privilege of co-chairing the Canadian Council of Environment Ministers. It is the major intergovernmental forum in Canada for discussion and joint action on environmental issues. This council, along with Energy Ministers, must begin to develop a national strategy to meet the climate change commitments made by Canada in Kyoto, Japan last December. As part of this strategy, the NWT must determine how and if we can reduce our production of greenhouse gases without negatively affecting a growing economy. RWED's Energy Management Program and the involvement of the newly formed Arctic Energy Alliance will be critical in developing NWT goals and approaches to energy conservation and climate change.

In preparing for division, RWED has taken a proactive approach. This year, the plan is to transfer an additional 16 PYs and \$2.7 million to add to the existing 23 PYs and \$4.3 million budget in RWED Nunavut headquarters. Training and recruiting Inuit staff continues to be a priority.

Like all Members of this Legislature, I want to see each new territory develop a strong economy. In Nunavut, we are encouraging investment from the mineral industry through support to regional mining symposiums. One was held in Rankin in 1997 and another will be held in Kitikmeot at the end of March. The Baffin fishery has been very successful and I intend to meet with the federal Fisheries Minister to

ensure that the north shares in any increases to offshore quotas. Nunavut regional staff is also providing business assistance and expertise to northerners who want to participate in economic opportunities, such as the construction of infrastructure and tourism, associated with the creation of a new government.

In the western Arctic, we want to see value-added activities be part of the development of our natural resources, such as diamonds, forests and wildlife. Such activities mean more employment and this is what our smaller communities need.

Finally, I would like to recognize the extra efforts that RWED staff has made to adjust to the impacts of amalgamation. This has resulted in additional workloads. Yet I believe that staff, especially in the regions, have maintained the quality and level of services.

Mr. Chairman, in just two short years this department has adjusted to amalgamation and is preparing for division. To meet our other objectives under these circumstances speaks to the support from this Legislature and to the hard work of RWED staff. I thank you for that support and look forward to your suggestions and comments. Mahsi cho.

--Applause

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen): Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Before I recognize Mr. Krutko with his comments from the committee, I would like to remind all Members, including Ministers, that the time limit is ten-minutes for any one Member to speak in committee of the whole. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development's 1998-99 budget is \$100 million (\$96 million in operations and maintenance and \$4 million in capital expenditures), an increase of \$4.6 million from 1997-98. There are 550 positions in total for 1998-99. This is an increase of ten positions from 1997-98.

Committee Members are concerned that the enthusiasm behind the community economic development initiative may soon fade. Members would like to see this initiative continue and emphasize that it should remain a priority and responsibility of this department.

Members would like to see this initiative be properly monitored in each region and a reporting mechanism be developed to ensure a fair distribution of funds. The department has agreed to provide quarterly reports to the committee.

The department would like the NWT Development Corporation's portfolio to be enhanced by promoting its role in the development of the economy in level 2 and 3 communities. In order for this to happen, the Financial Management Board Secretariat approved a one-time contribution of \$1.2 million to the NWT Development Corporation. The department agreed to provide an update on the corporation's subsidiaries to the committee.

The standing committee wants to ensure there are no major changes to the Wildlife Act before division with the exception of the amendments with respect to the Gwich'in and Sahtu Land Claim Agreements. The department agreed to provide a letter of intent reflecting this assurance.

The department plans to revisit the Northern Accord to examine the issue of resource revenue sharing. We support this initiative and encourage the department to invite interest.

The standing committee requested additional information from the department in a number of areas, most of which has been received. The committee appreciates receiving the responses to these requests and looks forward to further discussions with the Minister regarding departmental initiatives. Thank you.

--Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. I recognize Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, given the progress we have made today and noting the time, I would like to make a motion to report progress. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. We have a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion is not debatable. I will have to ring the bell for a quorum. We have a motion on the floor to report progress. All those in

favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. I will now rise and report progress.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 8, Appropriation Act, 1998-99; Bill 14, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act and Committee Report 04-13(5) and would like to report progress. Bill 14 is ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that report of the committee of the whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Seconded by Mr. Arlooktoo. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. I would like to recognize in the gallery, Ms. Catherine Trumper, the assistant deputy minister for RWED in Iqaluit. Welcome to the Assembly.

--Applause

Also, Jack Anawak, the Interim Commissioner for division.

--Applause

Welcome to the Assembly. 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 9:00 a.m. tomorrow.

Orders of the day for Friday, February 27, 1998:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements

- 4. Returns to Oral Questions - Committee Report 02-13(5), Standing Committee on Government Operations, Report on the 1998- 99
- 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
- 6. Oral Questions Main Estimates
- 7. Written Questions - Committee Report 03-13(5), Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Report on the 1998-99 Main Estimates
- 8. Returns to Written Questions
- 9. Replies to Opening Address - Committee Report 04-13(5), Standing Committee on Resource Management and Development, Report on the 1998-99 Main Estimates
- 10. Petitions

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- 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees - Committee Report 05-13(5), Standing Committee on Social Programs, Report on the 1998-99 Main Estimates
- 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills - 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
- 13. Tabling of Documents
- 14. Notices of Motion
- 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills - Tabled Document 15-13(5), 1998-99 Budget Address
- 16. Motions
 - Motion 13-13(5), Resolution of Pay Equity Issue in the Northwest Territories
 - Tabled Document 19-13(5), Guidelines for Implementing Public/Private Partnerships
- 17. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act, No. 2
 - Bill 15, Adoption Act
- 18. Second Reading of Bills
 - Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Territorial Court Act
- 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 8, Appropriation Act, 1998-99
 - Bill 9, Loan Authorization Act, 1998-99
 - Bill 11, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1997-98
 - Bill 12, Write-Off of Debts Act, 1997-98
 - Bill 13, Forgiveness of Debts Act, 1997-98
- 20. Report of Committee of the Whole
- 21. Third Reading of Bills
 - Bill 14, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act
- 22. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. This House stands adjourned to Friday, February 27th at 10:00 a.m.

--ADJOURNMENT