



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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**HANSARD**

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The Honourable **Samuel Gargan**, Speaker

MEMBERS PRESENT

Honourable Goo Arlooktoo, Mr. Barnabas, Honourable Charles Dent, Mr. Enuaraq, Mr. Erasmus, Mr. Evaloarjuk, Honourable Sam Gargan, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Henry, Honourable Stephen Kakfwi, Mr. Krutko, Mr. Miltenberger, Honourable Don Morin, 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. Roland. Good afternoon. On behalf of the Members of the Legislative Assembly, I would like to express sincere condolences to Her Honour Helen Maksagak, Commissioner of the Northwest Territories and her family on the death of her husband and their father and grandfather, John. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

I have a message from the Deputy Commissioner.

I wish to advise the House that I have received the following message from the Deputy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories.

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I wish to advise that I recommend to the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories the passage of Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1998-99 during the Fifth Session of the 13th Legislative Assembly. Yours truly, Dan Marion, Deputy Commissioner.

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

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 92-13(5): Minister Absent From the House

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise Members that the Honourable Kelvin Ng will be absent from the House today and tomorrow to attend the Provincial/Territorial Ministerial Framework Negotiations meeting in Toronto. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Ministers' statements. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Minister's Statement 93-13(5): Recognition of Cadets in the NWT

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, cadets play an important part in the lives of hundreds of our youth. There are two air cadet squadrons and 17 army cadet corps in the NWT, with more than 400 air and army cadets. I had the privilege of being involved in the cadet movement for a number of years, and I know, from personal experience, what a difference it can make for our young people. I, therefore, take this opportunity to add my voice in recognition of the cadet movement in the NWT and in its recognition today in this House.

The primary focus of the cadet organization is to develop in our youth the foundations of good citizenship so that they will be able to become strong and contributing members of society. We have examples here in this House now in the form of our Pages, who have been drawn from our longest standing cadet units.

We have also seen the cadet displays outside put on by the cadet corps in Rae-Edzo and by the two Yellowknife cadet units. This afternoon at the break we look forward to the reception and demonstrations.

I would also like to pay tribute to the many volunteers who give so much of their lives to this movement. The volunteers, I experienced, gave not only their skills but also took the time to talk about issues and interests with us, really reaching out. With their abilities and dedication, our youth can continue to grow and develop into leaders of our communities.

We would not have cadets without the Canadian Forces, and I would like to thank them and their northern-based personnel also for the tremendous work they do for cadets, not only in the time they spend, but in providing equipment, uniforms and financial support. It truly is appreciated.

Mr. Speaker, I know that we all wish air and army cadets, their leaders and their civilian sponsors all the best in the future and offer our support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Ministers' statements. Mr. Dent.

Minister's Statement 94-13(5): Continuance of the Northwest Territories Power Corporation

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to provide the Assembly with an update on issues related to the operation of the Northwest Territories Power Corporation after April 1, 1999. As the Members of this Assembly are aware, last fall I introduced a bill intended to allow the Northwest Territories Power Corporation to continue as a single corporation after division. A related bill was also introduced to amend the Public Utilities

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Act to allow for all regulatory matters for the Power Corporation to continue to be regulated by the Public Utilities Board. The purpose of this legislation was to enable the Power Corporation to incorporate under the Canada Business Corporations Act and be jointly owned by the Governments of Nunavut and the new Western Territory.

This bill received second reading in the House and was subsequently referred to the Standing Committee on Government Operations for consideration. Over the winter months, the Standing Committee held public hearings on these bills in Yellowknife and Iqaluit. During the course of these hearings, the parties involved in the division process; the Office of the Interim Commissioner of Nunavut, the Western Coalition and Nunavut Tunngavik made presentations concerning their respective positions on this matter. It was clear from these presentations that there are a number of differing views on this legislation and the model proposed for the continuation of a single corporation.

Mr. Speaker, for this reason, the government is recommending that the House not proceed with further consideration of these bills in Committee of the Whole after the report has been received from the Standing Committee on Government Operations. It is

more important at this time that we work with the parties to address their concerns and to resolve the critical issues they have raised in order to find a continuance plan acceptable to all parties.

To that end, Mr. Speaker, I have spoken with the Chairman of the Western Coalition, Mr. Roland, and I recently met with the Interim Commissioner, Mr. Anawak and the President of NTI, Mr. Kusugak. These meetings provided an opportunity to clarify some of the issues and concerns. Based on these discussions, officials from all parties met to develop a process that would address the issues and establish common ground for the continuation of a single corporation. To achieve this, the parties have agreed to engage a facilitator to help the parties work through the issues. Officials are now working to finalize the terms of reference and identify an appropriate facilitator. It is expected that this will be done by the end of May.

While we are undertaking this process, it is important to recognize the time constraints facing us in preparation for April 1, 1999. Given the tight legislative timetable facing the Assembly, some type of resolution will be necessary during the summer months to allow legislation to be introduced in the House this coming fall.

Mr. Speaker, the government continues to believe that a single Power Corporation, whose primary purpose is the safe, reliable and affordable delivery of power best serves the interests of all the residents of the NWT, both east and west. With the commitment of all of the parties to work through the issues standing in the way of consensus, I believe that we can achieve this important objective. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Ministers' statements. Mr. Todd.

Minister's Statement 95-13(5): Status of Financing Arrangements for Division

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to update Members on the status of the discussions regarding financing arrangements for Nunavut and the Western Territory after April 1, 1999.

The Special Committee on Financial Arrangements for Nunavut and the Western Territory has completed

the first phase of its work, examining the issues of funding levels and financing mechanisms for the two new territories. A great deal of work has been done in a relatively short period of time. I would like to commend the work of the officials of the GNWT, the Office of the Interim Commissioner, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., and the Western Coalition who have been meeting with the federal government since last May to discuss these important issues.

At this time, northern parties are awaiting the decision of the federal government regarding final funding levels and mechanisms. Based on my discussions over the past months with the federal Minister of Finance, the Honourable Paul Martin, I remain confident that sufficient funding will be available for each new territory after 1999 to maintain current program and service levels.

In addition, I believe that we will see some important improvements in the design of the formula mechanisms, some of which will increase the responsiveness of the formula to northern funding needs and others which will lead to greater administrative simplicity.

It is hoped that we will be advised of the federal decision as soon as possible. Business planning for the 1999-2000 fiscal year must begin soon for both territories and information about funding levels is key to this process. It is also important that officials be able to start work as soon as possible on the more detailed discussions and drafting needed to develop formal agreements. We would hope that these agreements would be ready for signing in the fall.

I would like to take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to thank Members for their advice and input into the financing process over the past year. Without the cooperation of everyone involved, these discussions would not have been as fruitful or as encouraging. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Ministers' statements. Ms. Thompson.

Minister's Statement 96-13(5): Community Fire Protection

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there is a real need for change in the area of community fire protection. Over the last year, six people were killed

and 23 people were injured by fire in the Northwest Territories. This is three times the Canadian average.

In the last two years, communities have also lost the following to fire:

- the Co-op store in Fort McPherson
- the Northern store in Deline
- the fire hall in Fort Resolution
- a furniture store in Yellowknife

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- the Attagoyuk school in Pangnirtung
- a motel in Fort Smith
- school portables in Fort McPherson, and
- the water board building in Gjoa Haven

Mr. Speaker, this amounts to a loss of over \$23 million worth of infrastructure.

It is tragic that too many northerners have lost their lives and that millions of dollars in property are also lost. With this track record, it is becoming even more difficult for this government to attain reasonable insurance coverage against fire.

All of this, Mr. Speaker, stresses the importance of introducing significant change to the current fire protection system. The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs is leading this effort through the office of the fire marshal, but just as important, Mr. Speaker, is the role of communities in maintaining an adequate fire response capability.

Community fire departments must have adequate resources to properly equip themselves to effectively respond to fires. In addition, Mr. Speaker, local firefighters must also be properly trained to do their jobs and to protect their community.

MACA is working with the NWT Fire Chiefs' Association to develop a territorial firefighter training program for community volunteers and professional firefighters alike. The department and the association are now finalizing recommendations to improve firefighting training across the north.

Since most fires can be prevented, the department is also working with the Fire Chiefs' Association to develop public education strategies to reduce the

number of fires. The NWT Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention Program has been launched to work with youth who are prone to starting fires. As well, our Learn Not to Burn campaign has been delivered in all our northern schools to educate children on fire safety.

Mr. Speaker, my department will continue these initiatives and will work with communities to increase their capacity to respond to fire. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

Member's Statement 379-13(5): Radio and Television Service in Hall Beach

**MR. EVALOARJUK:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to make a statement regarding Hall Beach's lack of CBC News Service. The residents of Hall Beach are still not able to receive CBC service at this point in time. As well, their local radio station is still out of service. At the appropriate time during question period, I will be asking the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment what his department and the CBC have done to date, to rectify the problem. Thank you. (Translation ends)

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Barnabas.

Member's Statement 380-13(5): High Arctic Office Shortages

**MR. BARNABAS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about the need for office space in the communities I represent in Grise Fiord and Arctic Bay. Mr. Speaker, since community empowerment started, the hamlets in these communities have had a shortage of office space. Last year, I was asking the Minister responsible for hamlets to renovate the offices that are being used to date. Today, nothing has been done. As a matter of fact, in the community of Arctic Bay and Grise Fiord, the employees who were transferred from the government are working in condemned office space. Every person has to work

in a good environment place. Nothing has been done to date on these offices.

As a matter of fact, when I was visiting the community of Grise Fiord, I took a tour of the office. There were some cracks and pipes that were cut, as well, the furnace was not working properly and in a cold climate area such as Grise Fiord that is not acceptable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Members' statements. Mr. Enuaraq.

Member's Statement 381-13(5): Cleanup of Cape Christian

**MR. ENUARAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, I would like to address the cleanup situation again at Cape Christian. Cape Christian as many of you know is the former American Coast Guard Station located 12 miles northeast of Clyde River. The Government of the Northwest Territories is the current owner of the site.

I stated earlier that the community of Clyde River would like the site thoroughly cleared of garbage and PCBs. There are also abandoned buildings on the site that pose a danger to children. Removal of those buildings should also be considered. In summary, Mr. Speaker, the site is a threat to the health and safety of the residents of Clyde River.

I understand an evaluation team from the Department of Public Works and Services proposes to go to Cape Christian to evaluate the site. The Royal Military College has evaluated the site before. They noted the presence of PCBs. I would like to take this opportunity to suggest that the department use the evaluation done by the college and immediately start the cleanup this summer. For the record, Mr. Speaker, this summer. Pollutants such as PCBs from the site are leaching into the ground. The residents cannot wait another summer for another evaluation to be done. Once the proposed evaluation is completed, there will not be enough time to coordinate a cleanup until next summer. This problem has haunted Clyde River for a long time now. Now is the time to properly resolve the matter by cleaning up the site. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Enuaraq. Members' statements. Mr. Picco.

Member's Statement 382-13(5): Education Funding Shortages

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**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, during the last sitting, I introduced a motion to have any budget surplus be redirected to the Department of Education and the Department of Health. Mr. Speaker, last month when I was home in Iqaluit, I attended a public forum on education sponsored by the Iqaluit Education Authority. The meeting was well attended and many good issues were raised.

The Department of Education has received, I believe, three percent cuts to its base funding over the past two years. With the increased enrolments in our schools and the adequacy of staffing levels, the reductions have had a major and detrimental effect on our schools and children. Mr. Speaker, I have received several letters from teachers, I have spoken to educators and parents and in all cases, they are worried and angry about the quality of our education system. We have cases of teachers buying materials from their own pockets. We have stories of stress and burnout. We have stories of curriculum problems and the adequacy of the formula used by the Department of Education in allotting the budgets to our school boards.

Mr. Speaker, the government continues to answer these concerns with, give us examples, show us the evidence. It is not enough to raise these issues in the House. The government has no money, Mr. Speaker. The government continually tells us about reductions and cutbacks. Yet, our educators question dubious studies and money spent on other areas. Mr. Speaker, as an elected Member, we get defensive when confronted and questioned about these reductions and their impacts.

I know that the Minister of Education is attempting to deal with these issues, but more has to be done and that can only be accomplished with this House unanimously supporting and addressing the concern of crowded classrooms and of formulas that do not reflect the current staffing levels, allocations for curriculums, et cetera.

Mr. Speaker, I will table another letter today from a teacher in my riding concerning this. I can also table letters from students, parents and education councils on these issues. Will that be proof enough for this government to do something? Can the problem be fixed by putting more money into the system or should the government review the adequacy and the areas where the money for education is currently being spent? Mr. Speaker, later today I will address the Premier about the government's role and what the Premier will direct the government to do about these issues and serious concerns. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Krutko.

Member's Statement 383-13(5): Mackenzie Delta Housing Concerns

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to address some concerns regarding housing issues on behalf of my constituents in the Mackenzie Delta. Many of my constituents have a variety of problems with construction of their units acquired through current housing programs. I have brought some of the more pressing issues to the attention of the Minister and I am sure these will be addressed in a timely manner. One of the major problems during construction of units was that a lot of the work was incomplete on the part of the contractor and followup by housing field staff was delayed and lengthy. Many of the clients had no real understanding of the overall impact of the agreements that were entered into for the programs they were accessing.

It is also felt by many housing clients in my constituency that there should be a local housing designate, at the least, if not from the regional office, to assist as a liaison officer to deal with problems and issues that arise during the construction of units and after they move into these units. Mr. Speaker, along the same line of questioning, as suggested, the regional staff's travel and visit in the communities should also include a visit to all the clients, either access DAP or EDAP so that they can meet with the different clients to ensure their concerns are addressed and that the units they require are totally complete, meet standards and they are covered by some sort of insurance policy.

I would also like to suggest to the Minister that they find some sort of a liaison person to work along with these clients to ensure that there is a smooth transaction of these programs when delivered in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement 384-13(5): Affordable Housing for Teachers

**MR. RABESCA:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to talk about a concern that has been brought to my attention regarding the very high rent that our teachers are paying in some of our small remote communities which is, of course, raising other issues. How will we find good quality teachers to staff our more remote communities? The lack of good quality teachers will ultimately reduce our children's level of education.

As we are aware, a few years ago, our government decided to sell off all staff housing and at the same time raised the rents to market value. This, as we have all heard, has created difficulties for teachers and other staff in our smaller communities. Often, teachers going into small communities are beginning teachers and/or have one or two years experience. In some of my communities we need three teachers and this means we need to hire a single teacher. As an example, a beginning teacher with a degree receives approximately \$46,000 plus Northern Allowance of approximately \$6,900. The rent for houses in Rae Lakes is \$1,127 per month or more, plus electricity and other utilities. This means a single teacher living in Rae Lakes pays over \$13,000 per year in rent. Which in comparison, the same teacher living in Rae-Edzo could pay as low as \$6,000 per year. The only difference between these two teachers would be the northern allowance. Why is there such a difference in rent costs? It is important to encourage teachers

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to live and work in these smaller communities.

To emphasize this further, in my region we currently have 26 vacant staff housing units in Rae-Edzo, two houses in Rae Lakes boarded up and possibly houses in Snare Lake that will be boarded up as well. All because no one can afford to live in them.

Currently, we have one staff member in Wha Ti that is living in a GNWT housing unit that the Department of Public Works and Services has condemned and is still charging \$500 per month for the luxury of living in a tiny one bedroom log cabin.

Previously, staff was able to live in a unit according to the size of his or her family. If a single person was living in a three-bedroom house because no other unit was available then, that person would be charged a different rate for being over accommodated. This practice is no longer available. What can be done to ensure adequate affordable housing is available to all staff no matter where they live? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Roland.

Member's Statement 385-13(5): Inuvik Army Cadet Corps

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Inuvik 2749 Inuvik Signals Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps is celebrating its 35th anniversary this year. The Inuvik RCAC held its first annual review in 1963. The Inuvik Cadet Corps has been affiliated with the Communications Squadron in Edmonton since 1993. Their corps membership has ranged anywhere from four to 45 over the 35 years. Currently, they have just under 20 cadets.

The Inuvik RCAC currently has four volunteer members. They are:

Chris Garven, he is the Captain and Commanding Officer; Bev Hainstock, she is a civilian instructor and the Supply Officer; Sharon Benson is a civilian instructor and the Administration Officer and Joey Greenland is a civilian instructor and Cadet Corps Assistant. The cadets who attend advanced courses or the summer training sessions in Whitehorse can receive school credits in the NWT. This was just implemented this year. Anywhere from six to ten cadets attend the training session in Whitehorse from the Inuvik Corps. This is during the summer season. Seven of the Inuvik RCAC cadets travelled to Iqaluit in December of this training year for the Annual Drill Competition, six females and one male represented Inuvik.

We are proud to announce that Ms. Candice Cockney is serving as a page here in the Assembly from May 20th to the 22nd. Ms. Cockney has been involved with the Inuvik RCAC for about one year. She is attending grade 8 at Samuel Hearne Secondary School in Inuvik. She would like me to say hello to her mother, Mae Cockney, her stepdad, Louis Goose and to her baby sister Anika.

The 2749 Inuvik Signals Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps is holding their annual inspection this Sunday, and I am sorry to say that I am not able to attend this year. I have attended the past two years' inspections and was extremely impressed with the corps. I wish all of the cadets well and would like to thank them for sending Ms. Candice Cockney as she has served well as a page here in the Assembly and is a fine representative for Inuvik. Thank you.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Miltenberger.

Member's Statement 386-13(5): Fort Smith Army Cadet Corps

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, as well, as part of Cadet Recognition Week, would like to recognize the role of the cadet corps in Fort Smith, which will also be celebrating its 35th anniversary this fall. This is a very long and honourable history and I think the positive role played by the cadet corps, the military and volunteers cannot go unnoticed. I believe that they stress very strong, good values like teamwork, initiative, hard work and sense of duty, all the type of values that have gone to make this country what it is today. We are fortunate as a community to have Private Kevin Robertson from Fort Smith here as well, in grade 8 of P.W. Kaeser High School. I would also like to also briefly recognize the fact that part of the military who trained cadets is Warrant Officer Floyd Powder from Fort Smith, who is currently stationed in Yellowknife working with the youth across the north. He has served many years with honour and distinction with the Canadian Armed Forces and is now giving that skill and experience to working with cadets. I would like to congratulate the cadet movement and wish them nothing but the best in the coming years. Thank you, very much.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Ootes.

Member's Statement 387-13(5): Value-Added Diamond Industries

**MR. OOTES:**

Mr. Speaker, two weeks ago, I had the privilege of participating in a Diamond Industry Development Conference sponsored by the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce in the city of Yellowknife. It was the first major diamond conference here in the north. A number of international experts were in attendance, and five or six companies expressed strong interest in setting up cutting, polishing and value-added businesses here. However, these companies could as easily be lured away to Alberta or BC whose governments are right now actively lobbying them to establish there. Now that BHP has agreed to establish a sorting and valuation plant in Yellowknife, it makes sense for this government to take the next step and support those businesses to establish here. We have the opportunity to make Yellowknife the diamond capital of North America and that will benefit all of the north.

Since our government and I believe our Finance Minister was willing to invest \$50 million to buy rough diamonds in order to get the value added industry off the ground, now is the time to redirect some of that money to assist this industry to establish in the north. This government should do its utmost to ensure

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we reach that goal so that in years to come, hundreds of northerners could possibly be employed in value-added industries. Others have done it and we can do it. Why should we not do it? Now is the time to act and to act decisively and with enticements by putting our money where our mouth is to attract a couple of these value-added businesses. We sent a signal to others that we are open for business and others will follow. The industry will subsequently grow on its own.

However, developing the northern economy is not just a territorial and municipal government responsibility. The federal government is equally responsible because they still control our resources and their development. DIAND, as the name implies, is responsible for National Indian Affairs and Northern Development. They should contribute financially to



get this value-added industry up and running. Let us send a message to Minister Jane Stewart and an invitation for her to come north to sit down with us, to hammer out a support and an incentive package. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Members' statements. Ms. Thompson.

Member's Statement 388-13(5): Congratulations to University Graduate Alan Duffy

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate my nephew, Alan Mikkituk who recently graduated from the University of Saskatchewan. His parents, Ron and Leonie Duffy and grandparents, Mikitok and Tweenaq are very proud of him. Also, the former Mrs. Duffy would have been very proud of her grandchild.

Alan's convocation was held on Tuesday, May 19th, where he received a Bachelor of Science Degree with honours in physics, as well as an honours certificate for highest marks in mathematical physics.

Alan is currently enrolled in a Graduate Studies Program at the University of Saskatchewan, and the focus of his research is on plasma physics. Mr. Speaker, Alan Duffy is not only a hard working student. He is also a dedicated husband to his wife Laura and proud father of their three children, Natuk three, Nanook five, and Tweenak seven months.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of my nephew and commend him for his dedication, discipline and the long hours of hard work which were required for his achievement.

(Translation) If you are listening, Alan, I celebrate your convocation. I am rejoicing with the people of Coral Harbour, as well as your parents, and I love you. (Translation ends)

Join me in congratulating Alan Duffy on his success. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. On behalf of the Member for North Slave, I would like to recognize the grade five class from Elizabeth Mackenzie Elementary School in Rae-Edzo. They are here today with their teacher. Welcome to the Assembly.

--Applause

I would also like to recognize the following who are in the gallery involved with the support of the cadet movement in the Northwest Territories. From the Northwest Territories/Yukon Zone of the Air Cadet League of Canada, there is Paul Craig, who is the President, and Jeff Gilmour. Welcome to the Assembly.

--Applause

From the Northwest Territories branch of the Army Cadet League, there is David Colpitts, President and Doug Sherburne.

--Applause

Welcome to the Assembly. From the Canadian Forces Headquarters, Northern Area, there is Lieutenant Colonel Jack Backstrom and Warrant Officer Floyd Powder.

--Applause

Welcome to the Assembly. Uniformed leaders of cadet units, there is Lieutenant Al McConnell and Lieutenant Steve Daniel. --Applause

Welcome all to the Assembly. Members' statements. Mr. Ningark.

Member's Statement 389-13(5): Compassionate Travel Benefit

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the past two years during the exercise of reduction and cutback of government services programs, many essential programs and services were eliminated. I have received a request to have one such program which was eliminated to be reinstated within this government. Mr. Speaker, this is a request for compassionate travel. I am sure every Member of this House has received such requests from their constituents. Mr. Speaker, given the extremely high cost of transportation in the NWT, recognizing that fact, I think there is a significant demand to have the program back in the budget. At the appropriate time,

Mr. Speaker, I will be asking the Premier if, in fact, the compassionate travel benefits could be reinstated by this government. Thank you.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Members' statements. Mr. Henry.

Member's Statement 390-13(5): World Catholic Education Day

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today is May 21st and it is a special day. May 21st is World Catholic Education Day. The day is recognized annually as the day in which Catholic schools around the world engage in some activities which recognize their international associations. Catholic schools

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contribute a great deal to the scholastic, spiritual and social aspects of life wherever they exist. In Canada, there are over one million students enrolled in Catholic schools. In Yellowknife, Mr. Speaker, we have three Catholic schools which today will be involved in various activities, recognizing their international association. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my fellow Members join me in recognizing the contribution to education that Catholic School District No. 2 in Yellowknife has provided. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Members' statements. Mrs. Groenewegen.

Member's Statement 391-13(5): Funding Support for Educational Programs

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there has never been a time when education has been more important to the future of the Northwest Territories. In a land rich in resources and opportunities, we, as a government, have a responsibility to make sure there is a trained and available labour force ready to meet the challenges of benefitting from these resources and opportunities in the upcoming millennium. Mr.

Speaker, to ensure the viability of our economy in the Northwest Territories, it is imperative that a local talented and responsive labour forces be developed. We have to make sure that northern college programs are relevant to employers' needs now and in the future. There have to be incentives for a post secondary educated northerner to return after completing their higher education in the south and contribute to the northern economy in a positive manner. The education which our children receive in their formative years must be of comparable quality to that offered to a child in the south. The Minister of Education has taken some positive steps in developing a common curriculum with his western Canadian counterparts and I applaud and encourage this initiative. However, Mr. Speaker, these initiatives are not enough. I strongly believe it is time for this Legislature to re-examine its priorities. It is time to invest in the future of the Northwest Territories and it is time to invest in education.

Government cutbacks in recent years have impacted on the ability of our educational system to react to our students' needs. Mr. Speaker, I am sure that in these days of making do with less, all students have suffered a drop in the quality of their education. Educational programs are scaled back at all grades, and all students suffer from this. If we are to break the cycle of dependency on social assistance programs that exist in some of our communities, we must provide the best possible education to our children. Mr. Speaker, I strongly believe education should be the cornerstone of this government's and future government's political platforms. We have to re-evaluate our priorities and invest in the future of the Northwest Territories. We must invest in our children and we must invest in education.

Mr. Speaker, I will be making further statements on specific educational issues during the remainder of this session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Members' statements. Mr. Morin.

Member's Statement 392-13(5): Settlement of the Pay Equity Dispute

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As MLA from Tu Nedhe, Mr. Speaker, a constituent is concerned about the pay

equity issue. Mr. Speaker, there has been a great deal of discussion and debate over the pay equity issue. Both the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Union of Northern Workers have made their positions clear on the matter.

This morning, I received a telephone call from one of my constituents. This lady is a government employee. She was calling to let me know that she and other female workers in my riding want to see this issue settled. They are not interested in a lengthy debate over pay equity. They would like to receive their share of the settlement and get on with their work, the sooner the better.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents raise a very important issue, one that some people may have lost sight of. While we argue over pay equity, female employees of the territorial government are left waiting for a settlement. They continue to work under a pay system that has been found to be unfair. As an MLA, I do not think that my constituents or anyone else in the NWT should be kept waiting for fair treatment. Mr. Speaker, this is not the first time I have heard people say they want pay equity settled. I encourage the UNW to listen to what its members are saying. We cannot change the past, but we can do better in the future. Let us not keep our employees waiting any longer. UNW, let your members vote. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Erasmus.

Member's Statement 393-13(5): Funding Support for Educational Programs

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about education in the Northwest Territories as I have been doing for some time. Mr. Speaker, as we heard earlier today and in the past, putting money into education is investing in the future. I read in one of the reports that the Department of Education has put out that investing one dollar today will save four to five dollars in the future. We also know that the education rates in the Northwest Territories are virtually bordering on the same rates as third world countries, excluding large centres such as Yellowknife, Hay River and Fort Smith. Mr. Speaker, studies have been done all over the world showing that poorly educated people tax the resources of governments because they have no jobs or the worst paying jobs. They are also less healthy than better educated

people. They do not live as long as better educated people. They are more likely to abuse alcohol and drugs and they are more likely to end up in jail, at some point in their life.

Mr. Speaker, I think we all want healthier people who are more likely to not abuse alcohol and drugs and more likely to stay out

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of jail. I feel the answer is simple. We simply need to put more money into education even if it means going into a deficit. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

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

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize several people. First of all, I would like to recognize some visitors in the gallery itself, Liz Ryan from the Public Service Alliance of Canada and Sam Gallant from the Union of Northern Workers. Additionally, I would like to recognize Doug Johnson, who is with the Housing Corporation and formerly a reporter covering this Legislative Assembly, and finally, I would like to recognize Cadet Heather MacKenzie, Grade 7, Ecole Alain St. Cyr. Here she is and she is constituent of mine. Thank you.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery, Mr. Rabesca.

**MR. RABESCA:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This week we have a number of cadets acting as Pages here in the Chamber and we also have a number of cadets who are here with different displays they have set up. I would like to recognize Crystal Richardson, who is one of the Pages as well; Shawn Camsell, Dustin Chocolate, Henry Fish, Jackson Mantla. These young people are from Rae-Edzo and are active

members of the Rae-Edzo Cadet Corps. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery, Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to recognize several people. First of all, I would like to acknowledge the presence of one of many summer students who will be working for the government this year. Shelly Kovalench will be working for the NWT Housing Corporation and she is observing today's session with a senior policy analyst, Doug Johnson of the Housing Corporation. Also, Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge one of the air cadets who lives on Latham Island on Morrison Drive, Corporal Selen Gouthier from Ecole St. Joseph's School. She is sitting over there to your right.

-Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Before we proceed to oral questions, I just want to remind the Members we will be taking a break at 3:00 p.m. The whole purpose is to meet the cadets and also to test how physically strong you are. I think the cadets would like to challenge you to a tug of war, as well as shooting. I would appreciate all of the Members being involved. It would do everyone a lot of good. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Evaloarjuk.

**ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS**

Question 503-13(5): CBC Radio Service in Hall Beach

**MR. EVALOARJUK:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. On February 12, 1998, I asked the Minister about Hall Beach residents not being able to receive broadcasting from CBC since December, 1997. At the time the Minister responded by saying that on February 28th, they would send someone to fix the service. Today is May 21st, they still have not been provided with CBC broadcasts and their local

radio station is still not in service. Can the Minister provide me with an accurate response as to what they are doing and what they are going to do to rectify the problem? (Translation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 503-13(5): CBC Radio Service in Hall Beach

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I must apologize to the Member for my response in February, which appears to have been inaccurate. It was, however, the information that I had been given by people in my department who had contacted the CBC. I passed on the information that was provided by the CBC and I am sorry to say that it was not accurate. I cannot tell the Member when CBC will visit the community to fix the transmitter. I am prepared to, again, contact CBC and have my office work toward putting some pressure on CBC to deal with this. I would encourage community residents and the Member to write the CBC directly and express their concern at the length of time it has taken for these repairs to take place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Enuaraq.

Question 504-13(5): Cleanup of Cape Christian Coast Guard Site

**MR. ENUARAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned the need for the cleaning of Cape Christian in my Member's statement, my question will be directed to the program Minister, Stephen Kakfwi, Minister of RWED. Will the department consider using the Royal Military College's evaluation of the site, instead of conducting its own evaluation? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 504-13(5): Cleanup of Cape Christian Coast Guard Site

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the federal government has the ultimate responsibility for the costs that were incurred in the final cleanup of this area. We do not know the cost it would take to do the cleanup at this time. The Department of Public Works was doing a feasibility

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study on what it would cost to do the final cleanup of Cape Christian. This is the work that is being undertaken this summer. We would welcome any additional avenues that would be available that would help us assess what the true cost of the cleanup would be so we can present it to the federal government for their consideration. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Enuaraq.

Supplementary To Question 504-13(5): Cleanup of Cape Christian Coast Guard Site

**MR. ENUARAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the honourable Minister. Will the department be undertaking a thorough cleanup of the site this summer? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 504-13(5): Cleanup of Cape Christian Coast Guard Site

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Most of the more hazardous materials have been removed from the site. What remains to be done is to deal with some debris, buildings and other infrastructure that are left standing intact at the site. This is intended to be dealt with and work that DPW is undertaking at this time to assess what it would cost to do the final cleanup of the site and present the cost to the federal government.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 505-13(5): Direction to Ministers on Education

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, following up on my earlier Member's statement, concerning education, I would like to address some questions to the Premier with regard to the role the government is playing with the open letters that have been published in the newspapers with the letters and documentation that have been tabled in this House. My question would be to the Premier on what direction is the Premier giving his staff, his Ministers on a continuing call for support to education? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 505-13(5): Direction to Ministers on Education

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Premier of the Northwest Territories, I do not direct the Ministers to deal with any given issue. I ask them to always take a look at any public concern that is raised, such as education, health and social services, whatever, and try to address the issue. Basically, we, as a government, have to respond to public concerns raised and we do that. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 505-13(5): Direction to Ministers on Education

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, how is the Premier implementing this response to the people? The Premier just told us he was responding. How is the Premier responding to these calls for reform to the education system and with allocation of funds? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 505-13(5): Direction to Ministers on Education

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Whenever we have a public concern raised, if it is addressed to myself, I do pass it on to the Ministers responsible and ask them to respond on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories. They are tasked with their ministerial duties for any given department, whether it is education, justice, health or whatever. They will respond to those requests. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 505-13(5): Direction to Ministers on Education

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in this House I have questions to the Minister for Education. We have heard he has been working very hard to try to work within a budget that has been cut. The Premier was also present when the motion was introduced in the House and passed last month. I am wondering what response has the Premier taken in regard to the motion passed last month in communication with his other Ministers and the Minister of Education? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 505-13(5): Direction to Ministers on Education

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Member is well aware that as Cabinet Members, as Members of the Legislative Assembly, people get a lot of requests. The few you hear about today are specific requests for more money for education. Yellowknife wants more money for diamond mines. Someone else wants more money for compassionate travel. There is a constant barrage of requests for dollars. We, as a Legislative Assembly, all 24 of us, agreed to balance the budget in the Legislative Assembly. We have accomplished that. We do not plan on going out and spending more than we take in. We do not plan on going into a deficit. We have very specific direction from this Legislative Assembly that we should operate within a balanced budget, with a given amount of deficit. We plan on finishing our term doing that. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 505-13(5): Direction to Ministers on Education

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, we have balanced the budget and yes, we have a small surplus projected. We are all moving forward. Mr. Speaker, I think the

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concern with education that has been raised over today and the last several months, as Mr. Erasmus stated earlier in his statement, as Ms. Groenewegen stated in her statement, I am wondering will the Premier now tell us what is the direction he will be taking as the head of this government to lead us somewhere, not only fiscally, but fundamentally, logistically with education and education concerns. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 505-13(5): Direction to Ministers on Education

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like I have said earlier, we set a course. We will follow that course and we are following that course until April 1, 1999. The course is taking us to division and the course will be taking us to a balanced budget. We have all just passed the budget here, just six weeks ago, I believe it was. The budget was very clear what we, as a government, were going to do. As far as education is concerned, I think that there are many people out there that have a concern about our education. It is a legitimate concern. We have to address it. We will work with other Members as well as educational boards and other members of the public to move to address it. There is no rainbow. There is no pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. We have limited financial resources and we have to address the issue of education within the limited amount of financial resources that we do have. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Question 506-13(5): Contracting of Government Services

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister responsible for Division and Nunavut Transition, Mr. Arlooktoo. Mr. Speaker, I realize that all of the details have not yet been finalized regarding which services will be contracted out from this government to help operate Nunavut. My question to the Minister is, can he tell us or at least give us an update as to where the discussions are at now, regarding which services will be contracted out? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Deputy Premier, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Return To Question 506-13(5): Contracting of Government Services

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the discussions we had with the Interim Commissioner last week, the basic agreement was that we would try to keep contracting out to a minimum. As much work as possible would be done by the Nunavut government on day one. Those of us who are working on this file, all know that would not be possible. At this point in time, our employees in Nunavut, in the new Nunavut government to be, new deputies and our deputies here are working on a document which will assess the capacity of what the new Nunavut government will have, subtracted from the services required which will equal what needs to be contracted out. We expect the list to be available to us in July.

The basic answer to that is, one, we want to keep it at a minimum and two, we want to make sure that the accountability or the control will rest with the Nunavut government and whatever arrangements are made, that there is an agreement signed with the GNWT, for example, that the GNWT would have its say in the signing of a contract. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 506-13(5): Contracting of Government Services

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, I realize most of the work is not completed yet, but we must have some information available as to what type of services and which departments? How long do we anticipate using these services? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arlooktoo. Two questions.

Further Return To Question 506-13(5): Contracting of Government Services

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately, we do not have a very clear picture. The one thing we do know is that the day-to-day services that government already provides on the ground in the communities are already there, so it will be there. The headquarters type functions are mostly coming out of Yellowknife which have to be moved over to the regional offices which is a bit of an unknown right now.

As I said, the work is continuing and by the first week in July, hopefully, when the Nunavut leaders meet again, we will be given a document that lists out what will be required to be contracted out. If some of those are to be contracted out with the Western Territory, that information will be shared immediately with the western leaders. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 506-13(5): Contracting of Government Services

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I realize and I see the need for contracting out these services as we are not quite ready to take them all on our own. How does the Minister see the services that will be contracted, what impact does he see that these services will have on the level of control that the new Nunavut government will have, given the fact that one of the primary reasons for creating Nunavut was for

the Nunavut residents to be able to govern and control their own destiny as they see fit? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 506-13(5): Contracting of Government Services

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To put it in a nutshell, one of our priorities is to make sure that the

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Legislative Assembly and the Executive Branch are up and running on April 1, 1999. You would have a point in the government that is in charge and in control, which is accountable for all of these different services. This is where the accountability and the authority will lie. Where services are contracted out, those will be done in agreement with the GNWT or another government or possibly with a private firm. If I could use one example, the legal registries with the Department of Justice, we know that in the community where it is supposed to be, in Nunavut, the office space infrastructure will not likely be ready. An arrangement will have to be made for the documents and the facility to be here in Yellowknife until the facility is ready. This would be done on a service contract basis. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Ningark.

Question 507-13(5): Compassionate Travel Benefit Program

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I stated in my Member's statement regarding the demand for the Compassionate Travel Benefit Program, given the high cost of living, travel in the NWT and in many cases the only means of travel is by air between the regions in the Nunavut area. Mr. Speaker, given the demand for the reinstatement of the compassionate travel, subsequently having requests coming from communities for this program, will the Premier of this government seriously consider reinstating the compassionate travel benefit? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 507-13(5): Compassionate Travel Benefit Program

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is not a lot of difference from Mr. Ningark's riding and my own about the concerns raised for compassionate travel, as well as the other communities that are remote which have to be serviced by air. I have raised that with the Minister of Health. We talked about it and the bottom line is, what is the priority? The priority of this government is to ensure we have enough dollars to move those people who are sick and need to be medevaced into the health centres and that is where the dollars will be spent. We no longer have dollars to spend on compassionate travel, so we have not revisited that issue. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 507-13(5): Compassionate Travel Benefit Program

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if I remember correctly during the reduction cutbacks, the Premier of this government and Mr. Todd, the Finance Minister, stated publicly the reduction cutbacks would be fair and compassionate. Will the Minister look at again reinstating the compassionate travel for people who cannot afford to travel to be with a loved one in their time of need? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 507-13(5): Compassionate Travel Benefit Program

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we had our budget reductions and we went through the budget reduction process in the last two years, we have cut \$207 million from a billion dollar budget, close to 20 percent, no other jurisdiction in this country has had to do that. We have done that. We have accomplished that and because of it, we now have fairly stable



ground to move forward. I, like the Member, feel compassion for those people who would like to be with their loved ones when they are in the hospital, sick or would like to be moving with them if they have to go out to have treatment for being ill, but unfortunately, this government does not have the dollars to pay for that anymore. We do have the dollars to move the actual person who is sick to the nearest regional centre or to hospitals, but we do not have the dollars to move relatives around. I know some communities have come up with innovative ways of doing that. They have worked on their own; for example, in my riding when someone is sick and they do need relatives with them, the people go from house to house and have money donated to that family to help. That is how a community works together to help each other, and it seems to be working. Maybe other communities could follow suit. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Roland.

Question 508-13(5): Update on Western Human Resource Plan

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question at this time would be directed to the Minister responsible for the Western Transition Planning. Mr. Speaker, concern is coming from residents that I represent regarding the issue of division, in respect as to what happens to the workforce after division happens. They are aware that Mr. Dent has worked on a Human Resource Strategy. I would like to know if the Minister could update us as to where this is right now and what would be coming forth? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister responsible for the Western Transition Planning, Mr. Dent.

Return To Question 508-13(5): Update on Western Human Resource Plan

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, before the report was completed, I had a chance to discuss what we would be proposing with the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Ms. Jane Stewart, and she expressed some interest in the plan. Since that time, we have formally presented the plan to Ms.

Stewart and I received a letter from her last week advising she needed another two or three weeks to complete her review of the plan, after which I am hoping we will be able to get together to discuss federal funding to implement the human resource development strategy for the west. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 508-13(5): Update on Western

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Human Resource Plan

**MR. ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister give us a time line that he would see, hopefully, this drawing to a close or getting the information out to the public? We know we are very dependent on the federal government to deal with the issue, but is the Minister hopeful with a certain timeframe that we could be looking at? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 508-13(5): Update on Western Human Resource Plan

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would hope we are talking about very soon. I cannot make that commitment today. I do have a letter from the federal Minister promising to complete her review of the proposal in the course of the next three weeks and the Members can be assured that I will do my utmost to follow up as quickly as possible with the federal government to see how quickly we can resolve the issue. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 509-13(5): Additional Resources for Education

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Education. It is in relation to educational priorities and the concern of how we translate this fine political sentiment expressed here in the House today into concrete action, keeping in mind that this Assembly, Cabinet and Ordinary Members through the business planning process just passed the budget, keeping in mind that division is almost upon us and that the next go round will be done by individual Caucuses. My question to the Minister is, how does he envision addressing this need to put more money into education which, I believe, has been expressed one way or the other by almost every Member of this House since we have been here? How do we do that? How does he see working with the two Caucuses to look at reviewing the priorities and possibly addressing, through the budgeting process, the need for more money? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 509-13(5): Additional Resources for Education

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as we heard from the Minister of Finance yesterday, the formula discussions for the two new governments are coming to a close. The Minister expressed some confidence that, in the future, we will be able to maintain existing services. Now, the Member has asked me, how do we find more money for education? I would say that what it takes is a strategic planning activity that I know both Caucuses are undertaking. One of the key factors to remember is that yesterday the Minister of Finance said that he believed there would be adequate funds to continue existing programs and services at existing levels. If we want to increase funding for education that means, we are going to have to discuss as a group where we change our priorities. The budget right now reflects what all 24 Members feel is the priority for this government. We will have to find ways to move monies from one area to another if we agree that priorities are shifting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 509-13(5): Additional Resources for Education

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the easy way out for us would be to just stand here and say, you guys fix that problem, but my question is; for instance, would we be prepared to take the \$40 million off the collective bargaining table and say we want to put it toward education? We know there is money there to do that. My question once again to the Minister would be, as he works with the Caucuses, keeping in mind, of course, that the Cabinet is in office until April 1, 1999, but that the two Caucuses will be setting their separate directions, how much weight will he be giving to the direction provided by the respective Caucuses? In the west, for example, will we have an opportunity to make these kinds of fundamental shifts that people are talking about? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 509-13(5): Additional Resources for Education

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the eight Members of the Cabinet, I am sure, represent the sentiments of this Legislative Assembly as a whole. If we do not, then we will not be around very long on this side of the House. If we are talking about how carefully will we listen to what the Caucuses have to say in setting the next budget, all Members can be assured we will listen very carefully, and will put a lot of weight on what the Caucuses have to say on how the budget should be developed. We are listening not just to requests that money be placed one place or another, we also want to hear where added funding for various programs should come from. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 509-13(5): Additional Resources for Education

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My final question to the Minister is just another clarification. From here on in, will it be western Members and the Western Caucus setting the direction for western educational priorities, and will it be eastern Members and the Eastern Caucus setting the direction that they want to take in the budget business plans they want to leave in place for the east? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 509-13(5): Additional Resources for Education

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**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In terms of involving people in the budget process, the intention is to operate as collegiality as possible with the Interim Commissioner and his staff for the development of the eastern budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. We have a half hour of question period left. We will break or reconvene at the call of the Chair.

--Break

**MR. SPEAKER:**

I call the House back to order. We have 30 minutes left in question period. Oral questions. Mr. Ootes.

Question 510-13(5): Attracting Value-Added Diamond Industries

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for Minister Kakfwi, Minister responsible for the diamond issue and Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development.

Earlier today I made a statement in regard to the effort to try and attract the diamond valuation companies to Yellowknife, those who were in the cutting and polishing industry. There are some that are definitely interested in coming to Yellowknife. The difficulty that is being faced right now is they are being lured right now by the provinces. Alberta, for example, is trying to attract one of those particular

companies and I understand BC and even Saskatchewan may be interested.

I feel it is important we move now on this issue. I am wondering if the Minister could tell us, has the government a plan to address this issue of trying to attract the diamond value-added industries in the diamond business to the north. So we have initially some companies that have established here and after that, I am sure, others will follow suit on their own. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 510-13(5): Attracting Value-Added Diamond Industries

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In March, there was a prospectors and developers' conference in Toronto where there was considerable interest generated by the session that the department put on in respect to the issue of diamonds and accessing rough diamonds in the Northwest Territories.

This was followed by another conference set up by the city of Yellowknife and the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce in early May, which provided a forum for northern businesses to get together with diamond manufacturers.

Mr. Speaker, over the last few months there has been considerable interest and profile given to diamonds across Canada and internationally. There are people who are experienced business people, manufacturers. There are people who are experienced in the business of making jewellery, trading in diamonds, repairing and assessing diamonds; who have come to Yellowknife and who have made contact with our department, seeking information and expressing interest in looking at setting up businesses in the Northwest Territories. The department has worked with a number of other departments to set up what you would call a Diamond Review Committee; for instance, the Development Corporation; the Business Corporation; the Department of Education, Culture and Employment and Aurora College. Human Resources Canada has been invited to attend.

We have set out some criteria and guidelines for potential business applicants, people who will be

applying for assistance from the governments for financial assistance to set up operations, training programs and businesses here in the north. So far, we have had one applicant that has presented an application proposal to this committee. We are expecting more to come in the future. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 510-13(5): Attracting Value-Added Diamond Industries

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the concerns that is there is, in the case of one I know of, they have a timeframe problem because of the lure by the province of that particular company. Could the Minister tell us if this Diamond Review Committee is in a position to make some decisions in fairly short order, with regard to providing incentives or whatever means necessary to attract this particular company or others to the north? To repeat my question, has a timeframe been set which we could address this concern to provide an incentive program? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 510-13(5): Attracting Value-Added Diamond Industries

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The proposals are to be reviewed and handled as expeditiously as possible. It is important to make sure all the information that is available, which is required, is made available by these applicants. For instance, we need to know their history, the principals involved in the companies, what line of work they have done. Perhaps some references from some of their clients, just to ensure they are the type of companies and business people we want to make sure come north, also, that they are credible, reputable principals and companies that come forward. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 510-13(5): Attracting Value-Added Diamond Industries

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my statement I also made reference to the fact that the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs had responsibility with respect to northern development. Resource development is an area they still control. I am pleased to hear Human Resources Development Canada is a participant in the Diamond Review Committee. I

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just was wondering if the Minister was able to make contact with the federal Minister of Northern Affairs to impress upon her the need for the DIAND Department to also participate in this and to be a contributor and to anti-up to the need to attract these particular industries? Has the Minister been in touch with the federal Minister? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 510-13(5): Attracting Value-Added Diamond Industries

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is important to keep the federal government involved and informed of the work and activity we are engaged in. We will be keeping the federal Minister informed and advised of the work we are undertaking to capitalize and seize the opportunities that are created by the fact that BHP has agreed to provide access to rough diamonds and to build a facility here in the Northwest Territories at the Yellowknife airport.

We are trying to keep in contact, to keep the federal officials informed. The task force that was set up with the federal government is expected to send me its final report in the next week or two. We are continuing to work as closely as we can with the federal government and keeping the federal Ministers advised. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 510-13(5): Attracting Value-Added Diamond Industries

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The federal task force which this government is a member of, as well as the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs and several other federal government departments, as the Minister stated is due to present its report next week. Could the Minister tell us, will that report become public? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 510-13(5): Attracting Value-Added Diamond Industries

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my expectation the report should be submitted to the respective Ministers in the next few weeks. Once the Government of the Northwest Territories and the federal government approve the report of the task force, it should be available for release sometime in June. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Barnabas.

Question 511-13(5): Grise Fiord and Arctic Bay Hamlet Offices

**MR. BARNABAS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be asking questions in Inuktitut. (Translation) Mr. Speaker, this afternoon, further to my statement concerning the settlement of Grise Fiord, I have a question for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Ms. Manitok Thompson. My first question is, what has been done in the Minister's department to adjust and rebuild the offices in Arctic Bay and Grise Fiord to enable renovations for the hamlet offices in those communities? Thank you. (Translation ends)

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs, Ms. Thompson.

Return To Question 511-13(5): Grise Fiord and Arctic Bay Hamlet Offices

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Member please tell me what offices they are, if they are Renewable Resources offices? Before I answer the question, I have to know which department he is talking about. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Barnabas, would you answer the question?

Supplementary To Question 511-13(5): Grise Fiord and Arctic Bay Hamlet Offices

**MR. BARNABAS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, these offices are being used by MLOs and other workers that are in the same area, not the GNWT Renewable Resources offices. These are government transfers to these hamlets. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Ms. Thompson.

Further Return To Question 511-13(5): Grise Fiord and Arctic Bay Hamlet Offices

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When a transfer takes place in a community, the person who has been transferred to the hamlet, or the department that has been transferred to the municipality, does not physically move out of his office if he does not need to. He can stay in his office and work out of that office, even though the department might be moved to or transferred to the municipality. I will check the correspondence that has been going back and forth to those communities with my department or their hamlet minutes indicating when they had asked for assistance and they have not received it from my department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Barnabas.

Supplementary To Question 511-13(5): Grise Fiord and Arctic Bay Hamlet Offices

**MR. BARNABAS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am talking about the offices that were still being used by these persons that were transferred. The one in Grise Fiord

has been condemned, but after the transfer, because of lack of office space, the office had to be used again even though it was condemned. The other office that I am talking about in Arctic Bay was supposed to be condemned too because of sewage problems and the walls are still in panels which is a fire hazard. There have been no improvements done to date, even though

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the hamlet took over these offices.

My question for the Minister is the government giving funds to the hamlets in order to improve these offices or will hamlets have to come up with funds in order to improve the offices? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Ms. Thompson.

Further Return To Question 511-13(5): Grise Fiord and Arctic Bay Hamlet Offices

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before a transfer takes place to a municipality, there is a negotiation process that is gone through, so that both parties agree with the transfer. I do not know what has happened here, but it maybe a different department that deals with infrastructures. I will definitely check for the Member as to what has happened with the transfer. There is usually a very long process before a transfer takes place. There is negotiation, and if the community decides not to take a building, we give them that option not to take the building. I will get a response from my department and get back to the Member right away. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Barnabas.

Supplementary To Question 511-13(5): Grise Fiord and Arctic Bay Hamlet Offices

**MR. BARNABAS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Minister. Are there any funds available for office complexes since community empowerment will be used by the hamlets? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Ms. Thompson.

Further Return To Question 511-13(5): Grise Fiord and Arctic Bay Hamlet Offices

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I will ask my department to respond to those communities right away and see how we can assist them. It will be coming from the regional office. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 512-13(5): Position on Changes to the Young Offenders Act

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is to the Minister of Justice, Mr. Arlooktoo. Mr. Speaker, there have been rumblings and hearings, at the national level, about changes being sought to the Young Offenders Act and the need to tighten the current legislation regarding these individuals. Mr. Speaker, we have had also a great deal of feedback from constituents who are fed up with what they perceive as a lack of substance to the laws governing young offenders. I know, in my constituency, it is not unique. I have also heard Mr. Krutko talk about concerns he has had on the same topic in this House. I would like to ask the Minister of Justice, what is the GNWT's current position in supporting changes to the Young Offenders Act? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister of Justice, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Return To Question 512-13(5): Position on Changes to the Young Offenders Act

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this point in time, the department is putting together an information package for all MLAs summarizing what the federal announcement was. We, in general, support the federal government's attempts to improve the Young Offenders Act. There were a couple of specific areas that they were trying to work on including the area of being more direct or perhaps harsher on some young

offenders who may be committing very serious crimes but, in the public eye, not receiving the proper punishment. The other is a move toward restorative justice toward corrections, et cetera. The thrust of the Department of Justice in the NWT is in the area of restorative justice and community justice. It is something the department has been working on for some time. In summary, we, in general, support the federal Minister, Anne McLellan, and we are, at this point in time, gathering information, as I said, and we will be sharing it with Members of the Assembly.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 512-13(5): Position on Changes to the Young Offenders Act

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Minister Arlooktoo, for that detail. My supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, is to the Minister. Does the Government of the Northwest Territories have any abilities to enact laws regarding young offenders that could be put in place probably sooner than what the federal government legislation will take? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 512-13(5): Position on Changes to the Young Offenders Act

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Generally speaking, the laws governing Canada are the responsibility of the federal government. The ones that the territorial or provincial governments can make cannot erode or take away from federal laws, but what we can do, generally speaking, is make rules and laws tighter or more stringent. There are specific areas the Member is referring to. We would be happy to look at that. As another general comment, much of the attention that was put on the federal announcement was on the fairly narrow area of youth crimes that have to do with very serious or shocking cases such as murders, beatings, et cetera, but if you look at the overall youth crime statistics, the vast majority of them are things like break and enters, theft, et cetera. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

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Supplementary To Question 512-13(5): Position on Changes to the Young Offenders Act

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister again, and I will certainly look forward to the package that the Minister has committed to providing to MLAs. Has the Minister given any consideration or has his government given any consideration to having, he referred to harsher penalties and having restorative inclusions proposed to the federal legislation? Will the Minister pursue that further and encourage parents to take more responsibility to a later age for their children? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 512-13(5): Position on Changes to the Young Offenders Act

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said, we are open to looking at whatever suggestions MLAs may have. The current area that we are very interested in right now is in the area of restorative justice or dealing with root causes on why youth commit crimes and how we can help them when they are released to go back to being productive members of society because one of the big things that we have found is that, in many cases, putting young people in the correction institution has had negative impacts such as the youth going back to their communities angrier than they were or having learned new crimes, et cetera. This is an area that we are very much concentrating, the restorative side. I look forward to suggestions and cooperation among everybody in finding solutions for that.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 513-13(5): Housing Corporation Liaison with Clients

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of the Housing Corporation, Mr. Goo Arlooktoo. It is in regard to my Member's statement and the concerns that have been raised by my constituents, especially the ones that have required the access units or HAP units where they feel there is no real followup from his office or the department to formulate some sort of dialogue between the client and the department. I would like to ask the Minister, is there a possibility of having someone within the community as a liaison person to work along with these clients to ensure there is a smooth transaction for the client when he moves into these units and also if there are any problems with those units, there is someone there they can talk to with regard to these problems?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister responsible for NWT Housing Corporation, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Return To Question 513-13(5): Housing Corporation Liaison with Clients

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When a client or an MLA, for example, identifies with us Housing Corporation clients who are having problems, we do take these concerns seriously and on a case-by-case basis deal with these clients individually. We have many examples of clients who have concerns that are brought forward by MLAs to myself. We, in turn, send the Housing Corporation staff to the communities to work with these individuals. This currently is the way we operate in many cases. The other emerging area is in the area related to community empowerment where we pass more of the authority of giving communities and local housing associations the ability to administer our housing programs and, in doing that, training local people to deal with clients and finding solutions. There are possibilities in that area, but in general, we do it on a case-by-case basis. We have identified the fact that there has not been enough done in followups, in some cases, and I appreciate the Member bringing it to me personally. We are trying to deal with that issue. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 513-13(5): Housing Corporation Liaison with Clients

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the majority of concerns that I have heard, it seems to be in relation to workmanship of the contractor, or whoever constructed these buildings. It seems there are problems in regard to electrical fixtures where the plug-ins are not working, the light switch is not working, they are having problems with their septic tanks, and so on and so forth. Is there a possibility that someone from the department in the Inuvik region can meet with each and every one of these clients who have acquired these units through Access, DAP or, EDAP or whatever program is out there to ensure the concerns are being considered and that the whole question about warranty or whatever work has concluded to bring those units up to standards? These individuals have now moved in but these repairs have not been done to date. Can the Minister assure me that someone will go into each and every one of these units to carry out those inspections?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 513-13(5): Housing Corporation Liaison with Clients

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a couple of things that I can offer up to the Member. One, the Housing Corporation has taken seriously the Member's concern that he brought forward to us recently, that it appeared, in some cases, there was not enough followup with clients who have just finished building their homes and that has to deal with the warranty period, which requires some assistance in monitoring. We will see a change or an improvement in that area. I do not think it would be the best use of our staff's time to go back to all of the homeowners in the region in the next little while to see if they have problems, but what we can do is notify homeowners who have received homes through our programs of the next time the Housing Corporation staff will go to their particular community on their regular visits and that we are available to talk to them and ensure we listen to these concerns. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**



Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

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Supplementary To Question 513-13(5): Housing Corporation Liaison with Clients

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe it is the responsibility of this government and also as the delivery agency of housing programs in the north that we do ensure we try to resolve a lot of these problems and issues before they become a bigger problem, I think, because a lot of these programs are new in regard to Access, DAP, the EDAP Programs that we are presently putting in place. We are talking about Housing 2000. We have to ensure they run smoothly and that we do not continue to see these problems create hardship to the residents we represent. I believe a lot of people are finding themselves in the position now that they are having second thoughts of being put in the position where they are financially running into problems because of problems with their furnaces or problems with the electrical conditions that have poor workmanship on those units. The reason I am asking these questions to the Minister is to ensure these do not continue to carry on and that something be done as soon as possible to ensure my constituents that there will be someone there to hear their concerns and deal with these problems that have arisen to date, so that these do not continue to carry on forever. Will the Minister ensure that someone will go to my constituents and meet with the housing clients to look at these concerns and deal with them ASAP?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 513-13(5): Housing Corporation Liaison with Clients

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe there has been Housing Corporation staff in the Member's constituency over the last couple of weeks, but also our regional staff goes to these communities on a regular basis. These trips are announced, and we will make sure that will continue and make ourselves available to anyone who wants to talk with the staff. There are two other things that I would give Members a heads up on and that we are doing as a corporation. One is the production of homeowners' manuals which

will be made available to all clients which will discuss or show in easy terms some routine repair requirements and things about maintaining your own home. The other is, recently I directed the corporation to come up with options for us to consider maintenance programs for homeowners. What we are finding is that the first crop of HAP clients has been in their homes for the last 10 or 12 years and some have had little or no preventative maintenance and therefore, will require some assistance or some expertise at least. I hope to be showing or announcing to the House soon what we plan to do in that regard. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Question period is over. You still have one final supplementary. Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 513-13(5): Housing Corporation Liaison with Clients

**MR. KRUTKO:**

If it is free, I will take it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is important that we do look at the guidelines that these programs fall under and that we have to somehow improve the coordination and having some sort of a liaison person in place to ensure that clients feel their concerns are heard. I am not trying to put down the department or anyone within the Inuvik Region, but this was the majority of issues that I had to deal with in regard to my visit with my constituents. A large portion of those concerns was housing related. Somehow, there has to be someone within the community who recognizes the liaison person to work alongside with these clients to ensure they understand the terms and conditions of those agreements that they have signed and also the obligation the contractor has to the clients to ensure workmanship is being concluded. I would like to ask the Minister if he can consider looking at the guidelines in regard to these programs and how the different agreements have been written to ensure that the clients also are protected in regard to the arrangements they have signed off regarding these different programs? Can the Minister consider looking at these different initiatives and getting back to me on that? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 513-13(5): Housing Corporation Liaison with Clients

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are in the process of trying to deal with better or improved counselling for our clients or our clients to be and we will take the Members comments into consideration. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. I would like again just to remind the Members during question period that you ask your question with a preamble, but that you limit your supplementaries. I have two Members who did not get the opportunity to ask any questions, even though they are on the list. I also would request the Ministers to also have consideration for the Members with regard to your long response. We are on Item 7, written questions. Mr. Henry.

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would request unanimous consent to return to Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Member for Yellowknife South is seeking unanimous consent to return to Item 5. Do we have any nays? Mr. Henry, you have unanimous consent. Go ahead.

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

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize some visitors from our national capital. Mr. Ian Glen is the deputy minister of Environment Canada and he is visiting Yellowknife to attend meetings with the Deputy Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. He is also joined by his assistant, Mrs. Judy Watling, and also in the gallery we have Mrs. Donna Mandeville who is a program assistant for Environment Canada. Mrs. Mandeville is a student working for Environment Canada for two summers now and is attending university in New Brunswick. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

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**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Welcome to the assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. We are back to Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. Mr. Rabesca.

**ITEM 10: PETITIONS**

Petition 3-13(5): Adequate Funding for Education

**MR. RABESCA:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to present a petition dealing with the matter of adequate funding for education. Mr. Speaker, the petition contains 14 signatures from the residents of Rae-Edzo. Mr. Speaker, the petition requests the Legislature to provide adequate funding, so that our schools may continue to do an outstanding job in educating our young people, and further that education be a top priority for the next sitting of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Mr. Enuaraq.

**ITEM 12: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON THE REVIEW OF BILLS**

Bill 7: An Act to Amend the Territorial Court Act

**MR. ENUARAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to report to the Legislative Assembly that the Standing Committee on Social Programs has reviewed Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Territorial Court Act and wishes to report that Bill 7 is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole, as amended and as reprinted. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Arlooktoo.

**ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS**

Tabled Document 83-13(5): Victims Assistance Committee of the Northwest Territories Seventh Annual Report

Tabled Document 84-13(5): Victims Assistance Committee of the Northwest Territories Eighth Annual Report

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table two reports. One is entitled, Victims Assistance Committee of the Northwest Territories Seventh Annual Report, and the other is Victims Assistance Committee of the Northwest Territories Eighth Annual Report. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Tabling of documents. Mr. Picco.

Tabled Document 85-13(5): Letter from Sheyla Kolola Re: Education Concerns

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to table a letter from Sheyla Kolola, who is a teacher in Iqaluit, concerning education and problems with teaching. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**ITEM 14: NOTICES OF MOTION**

Motion 17-13(5): Topic, State of Education in the Northwest Territories to Committee of the Whole

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, May 25th, 1998, I will move the following motion. Now therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Iqaluit, that the topic State of Education in the Northwest Territories be moved into Committee of the Whole for consideration.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. Item 20, report of committee of the whole. Item 21, third reading of bills. Item 22, orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

**ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY**

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

Mr. Speaker, there is a meeting of the Nunavut Caucus and the Western Caucus immediately after adjournment today and at 9 a.m. of the Ordinary Members' Caucus tomorrow.

Orders of the day for Friday, May 22, 1998:

1. Prayer
  2. Ministers' Statements
  3. Members' Statements
  4. Returns to Oral Questions
  5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
  6. Oral Questions
  7. Written Questions
  8. Returns to Written Questions
  9. Replies to Opening Address
  10. Petitions
  11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
  12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
  13. Tabling of Documents
  14. Notices of Motion
  15. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
  16. Motions
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17. First Reading of Bills
    - Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act, No. 2
    - Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, No. 2
  18. Second Reading of Bills
  19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  20. Report of Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. This House stands adjourned to Friday,  
May 22, 1998, at 10:00 a.m.

--ADJOURNMENT