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The Honourable **Samuel Gargan**, Speaker

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

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

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Good afternoon. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Morin.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 112-13(5): Ministers Absent From the House

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to advise Members that the Honourable Stephen Kakfwi will be a little late for the House on Tuesday, June 2nd, because he will be returning from the Western Arctic Hydrocarbon Conference in Hay River.

Mr. Speaker, I also wish to advise Members that the Honourable Charles Dent will be absent from the House on Wednesday, June 3rd to attend the official opening of the Baker Lake Heritage Centre in Baker Lake. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ministers' statements. Mr. Morin.

Minister's Statement 113-13(5): Statement of Conflict of Interest Commissioner's Decision

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to clarify my position on the May 28th decision of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner. The Commissioner has indicated in her report that there is a shortage of individual statements, sworn or otherwise, in support of Mrs. Groenewegen's intentions. The Commissioner has, therefore, determined it will be necessary to hear from third parties before she is able to determine if there is any merit to the complaint. I look forward to the inquiry, as I am confident that it will reveal that there is no substance to any of these allegations.

--Hear! Hear!

I respect the traditions and conventions of Parliament and have, therefore, sought counsel as to whether it would be appropriate to step aside as Premier during the public inquiry. I have been advised that it would not be prudent for me to do so. To step aside would set a dangerous precedent for this government and for all Premiers in Canada because it would encourage individuals to make such broadly worded complaints without any specifics and without supporting statements in the expectation that the Premier would step aside. I will, therefore, not step down as Premier of the Northwest Territories.

--Applause

I, Mr. Speaker, look forward to the public inquiry proceeding as quickly as possible and I invite the Member from Hay River to make herself available as a witness at the inquiry and to submit herself to cross examination, under oath, from my solicitors. I am confident that the truth will be revealed to all those who wait. In the meantime I, as Premier, and all of us who serve in this House, must get on with the business of government, I intend to do just that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Ministers' statements. Mr. Antoine.

Minister's Statement 114-13(5): GNWT Participation at the Recent Quebec City Meeting of the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers Responsible for Aboriginal Affairs and Leaders of the Five National Aboriginal Organizations

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House from May 19th to the 21st to attend a meeting of the federal/provincial/territorial Ministers responsible for Aboriginal Affairs and the leaders of the five national aboriginal organizations. I am pleased, today, to report the results of this meeting held in the historic capital of Quebec. Later today I will table a copy of the joint communique released at the end of our meeting. The communique outlines an approach for setting a new course in federal/provincial/territorial aboriginal relations.

Attached to the communique is a joint statement that the aboriginal leaders tabled at the meeting. It outlines their principles for working with government at the national level. The Ministers will consider this statement in future discussions. The statement also demands that Canada respond to the call for a First Ministers Conference with aboriginal leaders to deal with the final report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples. The Premiers and leaders called for this conference after meeting in Winnipeg during November of 1997, but the Prime Minister has so far rejected the idea.

Mr. Speaker, the result of our meeting in Quebec City was a consensus to take a new course in our relations. This was the product of difficult but frank discussions. A fundamental and long-standing issue lies at the heart of aboriginal relations in

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Canada. It is the nature of the federal government's responsibility for aboriginal people throughout this nation. This is a crucial constitutional and jurisdictional matter that fundamentally affects everyday funding and delivery issues for the governments and aboriginal people.

Canada maintains that it has primary, but not exclusive, responsibility for First Nations on reserves and aboriginal people north of the 60th, and that the provinces have primarily, but not exclusive, responsibility for off-reserve aboriginal peoples. The extent of these responsibilities is the question. This question has long distracted and complicated relations between the governments and aboriginal people. During recent years of funding reductions and service cutbacks to federal programs and services for aboriginal people, the provinces, territories and aboriginal communities have filled the void in responding to people's needs. We have come to know this situation as off-loading.

Unfortunately, Canada is not yet ready to resolve this issue to the satisfaction of the provinces, territories and aboriginal leadership, but I am very pleased to tell you, I believe, we made progress last week. We have made sure that this issue will be addressed in our ongoing dialogue. We have also ensured the issue of appropriate resources for aboriginal people will remain a subject to be considered in all future federal/provincial/territorial agreements. At the same time, we have agreed this issue will not block us from moving forward on other important matters, particularly, the practical needs of aboriginal people and ensuring a strong aboriginal voice in national processes for social policy renewal.

The Ministers and leaders wish to work together for practical results. They will undertake a comprehensive approach based on the following premises:

- First, the governments, without prejudice to their positions on federal responsibility for aboriginal people, need to work together with aboriginal leaders to address the circumstances of aboriginal people.

- Second, accelerated measures are important for social and economic development and efforts to enhance aboriginal self-reliance.

- Third, demographics demand the urgent challenge facing aboriginal youth be addressed through development of a National Aboriginal Youth Strategy.

- Lastly, the final report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples provides a solid foundation to address the needs of aboriginal people. Canada's response, Gathering Strength, Canada's Aboriginal Action Plan, provides a first step for the federal government to respond. The provinces and territories agree that cooperative approaches are required.

Mr. Speaker, to make sure this new course for relations between the Ministers and aboriginal leaders keeps its momentum, they agreed that officials would jointly develop recommendations on how to proceed within the next three months. The Ministers and leaders will meet within one year to review progress. As well, it was agreed that this cooperative approach identifies strategic ways of improving conditions for aboriginal people.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I wish to assure this House that the territorial government will continue to participate actively in these discussions. Our participation is an ideal way to promote territorial and aboriginal

interests and objectives at the national level, particularly in relation to social policy renewal, the federal response to the final Royal Commission report and bettering the lives of aboriginal people generally. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Ministers' statements. Mr. Ng.

Minister's Statement 115-13(5): Recruitment and Retention Plan for Health and Social Services

HON. KELVIN NG:

Mr. Speaker, in February I tabled the Recruitment and Retention Plan for Health and Social Services. I would now like to share with you some of the initiatives flowing from that plan. The plan addresses the three areas with the most immediate needs; social work, nursing and physician services.

The most pressing need is to fill vacancies. There has been some success already. Vacancy rates have decreased from levels of a few months ago. However, Mr. Speaker, the pressure on recruitment is not yet over. Some health and social services boards are having great difficulty recruiting to specific professions. The department will help these boards deal with their recruitment needs.

However, for many areas, we are now able to build on the recruitment efforts of the boards and focus on retaining the people who are hired. Now that vacancies have been filled, we need to keep people in those jobs. The Department of Health and Social Services has committed significant resources to move ahead with the Recruitment and Retention Initiative. A website for recruitment of both permanent and relief staff is being created. We expect to have it up and running by early summer. Through the website, health and social service professionals will be able to learn not only about specific job opportunities, but also about northern communities and the different health boards. They will also be able to submit their employment applications on-line.

Mr. Speaker, the department has hired a recruitment and retention specialist. This individual has more than ten years experience with northern health and social services as a frontline worker. This individual will be responsible for coordination and organization of professional recruitment throughout the territories. I believe her experience and network of contacts will

be very helpful to the boards. She is currently developing a list of individuals interested in locum and relief work. Boards should be able to use the list by September.

The specialist is also working with others to promote the north as a place to live. For example, she is currently working with the NWT Registered Nurses Association to develop

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promotional material for the Canadian Nurses' Convention this month.

Mr. Speaker, the Recruitment and Retention Plan emphasizes professional development. This includes creating a professional development fund. Board CEOs will review guidelines for the professional development fund for nurses and social workers this month. This fund will help nurses and social workers learn from their peers, in both the north and south.

The plan also stresses the need for support of nurses. This support must come from the boards, from management and from community members. Board CEOs will also review a policy designed to address health and social service personnel's concerns about the physical and verbal abuse that they face on the job. Efforts continue to develop a broader human resource plan that will address the whole health and social service system. This will include where we are now, what we will need in the future and how we can get there.

This work will involve components for both new territories and is being developed by a working group with representatives from all territorial health and social services boards, the NWT Registered Nurses Association, the NWT Medical Association, the NWT Health Care Association and the department.

Mr. Speaker, the Health and Social Services Human Resource Plan will address major issues such as: scope of practice, and the role of the nurse practitioner. I expect to have the final plan ready before the end of the year. Mr. Speaker, we are committed to working together with the boards and the professional associations toward creating a stronger, sustainable workforce. Together, we expect to protect and strengthen northern health and social services so that all northerners have access to quality care close to home. I look forward to the continuing support of this House and the public in these efforts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Ministers' statements. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Minister's Statement 116-13(5): RCMP - 125 Years of Service

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, across the country, special events are being organized to celebrate the 125th year anniversary of the RCMP. I was privileged to attend a Regimental Ball in Iqaluit last month. I had the honour to convey the congratulations and appreciation of 125 years of service from the Government of the Northwest Territories. It is a history that all members, past and present, can be proud of. The RCMP has come a long way from their beginnings in 1873. It is now a highly sophisticated police force with an international reputation. This proud history and reputation are based on a strong commitment to preserving the peace and upholding the law, as well as a spirit of community service. This holds particularly true in the north.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Ministers' statements. Ms. Thompson.

Minister's Statement 117-13(5): Community Policing

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Mr. Speaker, since 1996, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs and the Department of Justice have been working in partnership with the RCMP to advance new methods of policing in our northern communities. I am pleased to report that the Community Constable Program has trained more than 30 northern constables to work in close partnership with the RCMP. This program has made it possible for local people to take on increasing responsibility for the safety and security of their community. The community constables represent new public safety resources to support community development. Due to the success of the Community Constable Program, MACA and the Department of Justice have secured \$390,000 in funding from the federal government's Solicitor General's Office. Mr. Speaker, this funding is being used over two years to help community constables get further training, to buy much needed

equipment and to coordinate public safety education and crime prevention programs.

Mr. Speaker, my staff and our partners are working on other initiatives that will expand community policing across the territories. One such initiative is the Public Safety Officer Program. This program helps unincorporated communities and those communities without an RCMP detachment to become involved in community policing. Mr. Speaker, I am very excited about the community development work that is being accomplished through our public safety efforts. Safety and security are essential for community development. I am proud to say that we are making good progress in this area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Ministers' statements. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Minister's Statement 118-13(5): New Young Offenders Act

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HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Due to the fact that we have just expired the 20-minute time limit for Ministers' statements, I seek unanimous consent to waive rule 34(6), so that all Ministers' statements be translated and filed with the Clerk, so that they can be delivered today.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Member for Baffin South is seeking unanimous consent to waive rule 34(6). Do we have any nays? There are no nays. You have unanimous consent. Mr. Arlooktoo.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you colleagues. Mr. Speaker, later today I will be tabling an information package for Members concerning the federal proposal for new legislation governing young offenders. Last month, the Federal Minister of Justice released a document entitled, A Strategy for the Renewal of Youth Justice, in May. This outlines the intentions of the federal government with regard to young offenders. The policy document provides direction for a new Youth Criminal Justice Act that will replace the current Young Offender Act. Justice

Minister, Anne McLellan has indicated that she plans to introduce draft legislation this September. The policy document traces only the broad outline of her approach to young offenders. Much work remains over the coming months to translate the policy document into legislation. The information package that I will table later today is based on the information received so far from the Department of Justice Canada. The document has two priorities. On the one hand, it encourages community-based sanctions and effective alternative measures for non-violent offenders. On the other hand, it promotes harsher treatment for violent and repeat offenders. The document also emphasizes the importance of meaningful consequences for youth crime.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Ministers' statements. Ms. Thompson.

Minister's Statement 119-13(5): Outstanding Volunteer Service Award Recipient

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to announce the recipient of the NWT Outstanding Volunteer Service Award for 1998. Mr. Pat Bobinski of Hay River is being recognized for the contributions he has made to improving the lives of so many people in his community. Mr. Bobinski's commitment to supporting Hay River over the past 25 years spans a wide range of interests. They include:

- founding and building the Hay River Ski Club;
- leading outdoor trips for youth;
- being a member of the Hay River Flood Watch Committee; and
- coaching, officiating and organizing locally through to national biathlon competitions.

The Hay River Volunteer Fire and Ambulance Brigade and the Hay River Gun Club have also benefited from Pat's dedication and quiet leadership. Mr. Bobinski was nominated by the Recreation Board of Hay River for his outstanding dedication to developing and maintaining the Hay River Ski Club and Biathlon facilities. The presentation ceremony recognizing Mr. Bobinski as the 1998 Outstanding Volunteer will be held later this summer. In recognizing his accomplishments, Mr. Bobinski's name has been

inscribed on the Department's Outstanding Volunteer Service Award recognition plaque. He will also receive a personal plaque and a carving from Fort Smith artist, Sonny MacDonald. I would like to extend a special thank you to Mr. MacDonald, who, for the past eight years has generously donated a carving to each winner of the Outstanding Volunteer Service Award.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Members to join me in congratulating Pat Bobinski for his many years of dedicated service to his community and to the Northwest Territories. The Nominating Committee for this award also wishes to extend honorary mention to nominees John Argue of Yellowknife, Stephen Rowan of Fort Simpson and Qamaniq Sangoya of Pond Inlet, for their dedicated community involvement. Finally Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize the communities of Arctic Bay and Broughton Island who submitted numerous names for consideration for this award. These candidates are being recognized in their own community as caring and generous people who are willing to provide for others less fortunate in their communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement 473-13(5): Fatal Hunting Accident in Tuktoyaktuk

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MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of an unselfish act performed by a 14-year-old boy in Tuktoyaktuk, on Friday, May 29, 1998. Mr. Speaker, according to the RCMP in Tuktoyaktuk, circumstances surrounding a fatal accident in Tuktoyaktuk are as follows: On Friday, May 29, 1998, just before midnight, 14-year-old Daryll James Gruben and his two-year-old brother, Dang Patrick Noel Gruben were returning with their father from a hunting trip. On their way home, passing through Tuk harbour the skidoo they were riding on went through the ice. Patrick managed to hold his two-year-old brother's head above water until someone reached him. It took 40 to 45 minutes afterwards to attempt to recover the body of Daryll Gruben. The RCMP

recovered the body at approximately 12:48 a.m. and he was turned into the nursing station at 1:15 a.m. There were attempts for artificial respiration, but were unsuccessful. He was pronounced dead. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of the acts of this boy, Daryll James Gruben, I wish to nominate him for the Commissioner's Award for his unselfish acts, and furthermore, Mr. Speaker, I ask that this House hold a moment of silence in recognition of the unselfish sacrifice Daryll made, his life, so that his little brother may live. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. I ask the Members to stand in a moment of silence. Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Miltenberger.

Member's Statement 474-13(5): Recognition of the Achievements of Fort Smith Athletes

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today it gives me great pride and honour to stand up in this House and recognize the achievements of two athletes from Fort Smith, Meika MacDonald, and Jonathan Kurszewski. This weekend, they were recognized as the senior male and female athletes of the year for the Northwest Territories for their accomplishments. For Meika, in the area of Arctic sports, where she has held gold records for a number of years which are of an international nature and for Jonathan Kurszewski, who has track and field records, both territorially and is nationally ranked across Canada. I think he has very realistic chances of being in the upcoming Olympics. I would like to extend my congratulations to them. They are fine role models for young people in the north. They have certainly done their families proud, as well as the community of Fort Smith. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements. Mr. Barnabas.

Member's Statement 475-13(5): Medical Leave Escort Program

MR. BARNABAS:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a brief statement today as to why some people who go to the hospital will have to be

escorted by their family. I found this out in 1991 when I was escorting one of my family members. I would like to talk about this because of the reasons that some people have to leave their family behind when they are ill. When they go down south, they can neither speak the language nor understand it. It makes them sicker. The reason they have to be escorted out by someone who can speak English is because the person who is on medical travel has to be assisted by the person who escorts them. The person who is in need of medical attention is having a hard time physically and emotionally. They have no choice but to go down for this medical attention and to leave their families behind. Sometimes they do not have anyone to take care of them, except for their immediate family. I feel the people who do go on medical leave should be escorted. Mr. Speaker, later today during question period, I will be asking the Minister of Health and Social Services this question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements. Mr. Picco.

Member's Statement 476-13(5): Iqaluit Recipient of the Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last week we had as an Assembly an opportunity to debate several areas around education. Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak today about a very good story on education. Ms. Elizabeth Tumblin, from Iqaluit, who is a teacher at Joamie School, in Iqaluit has been selected as a 1997 recipient of the Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence. The program honours the contribution of outstanding educators who have set their students on a path of life-long learning and have equipped them with the knowledge, attitudes and abilities they will need to succeed in tomorrow's society and economy. Mr. Speaker, through Ms. Tumblin's dedication and skill, she has opened the doors for these young people to exciting studies and careers. Ms. Tumblin was chosen from among almost 300 nominees across Canada. Elizabeth was recognized for her work over the past four years using a csile/knowledge forum for computers. This area of innovative instructions supports the learning environment as the basis for creating culturally relevant classrooms which encourage students to become part of a community of learners. Mr.

Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Elizabeth on her recognition by the Prime Minister and to extend our warmest regards from the people of Iqaluit and this House, for another example of the quality and dedication of our educators in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements. Mr. Krutko.

Member's Statement 477-13(5): First Nations Land Claims and the New North Professional Seminars

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to make a statement in regard to an initiative by an individual constituent of mine, Mr. James Ross, who delivers a unique program, especially in the summer months, which is called the First Nation Land Claims and the New North. These professional seminars are given in the natural beauty of the northern Yukon and also the Peel River basin area, where Mr. Ross gives a seminar based on the unique aspects of land claims, aboriginal rights and the whole history of the north,

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looking at the changing process that a lot of people do not really understand when it comes to self-government negotiations and the whole process of land claims settlements.

Mr. Ross has been delivering this program for the last four or five years. Last year, he introduced a program to the South Slave area in which he conducted several seminars around the Great Slave Lake and up the Mackenzie River. This year, Mr. Ross will be conducting similar seminars up the Yukon River and several trips up the Peel River during June, July and August. Mr. Ross' unique and ambitious ways in presenting the whole concept of aboriginal rights and aboriginal history is something a lot of people in the north should take the time and the effort to understand, especially with the changing times that we find ourselves in the north with the settlement of land claims and the negotiations which are presently underway with self-government agreements. Mr. Ross has taken the ambition of presenting a unique experience of feeling what it is like living on the land and along the river system and see how the aboriginal

people used to live at one time, up the Peel River area and the history of the Peel River watershed.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mr. Ross and his endeavour with regard to offering such a unique experience. I would like other people who are interested to call Mr. Ross in regard to this ambition. Mr. Ross is currently in Hay River and you can get hold of him at (867) 874-2658 or on his Website at www.rross.nco.com. Anyone interested in this exotic adventure, take it on. Thank you.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Roland.

Member's Statement 478-13(5): Inuvik Recipients of the Ross Charles Award and NWT Literacy Award

MR. ROLAND:

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

--Applause

Mr. Speaker, Marja Van Niewenhuyzen is one of seven recipients of the 1998 NWT Literacy Awards. The award is given to people who demonstrate an outstanding commitment to the promotion of literacy in their community. Ms. Van Niewenhuyzen is the executive director of the NWT Training Centre in Inuvik and has worked with literacy programs for the past 16 years. Marja can be seen doing a variety of functions at the training centre which ranges from assisting with arts and crafts to securing training centre funding for which sources vary from year to year. Ms. Van Niewenhuyzen is a member of our regional training committee and has been a volunteer with organizations such as the Family Counselling Centre, the Inuvik Daycare, the Native Women's Association of the NWT and the Inuvik Alcohol Committee.

These two constituents have shown incredible dedication to their respective fields and commitment to the people of Inuvik. It is very important to have role models at the community level for our youth to look up to. Their hard work and contributions to our community are much appreciated. It is people like Stan Ruben and Marja Van Niewenhuyzen who make Inuvik a better place to live. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements. Mr. Ootes.

Member's Statement 479-13(5): Conflict of Interest
Commissioner's Decision to Conduct a Public Inquiry

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to speak about the conflict of interest allegations issue regarding the Premier. In the Conflict Commissioner's report, three allegations were ruled inadequate to warrant further inquiry. There are eight allegations that the Conflict Commissioner will pursue through a public inquiry. These allegations cover a broad range of areas. I understand that the terms of reference for the public inquiry are to be drawn up and once the inquiry is complete, the Conflict Commissioner will issue a report to the Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, public affairs in the north have become much more complex over the last 20 years. This situation before us now is a particularly tough one on all of us, especially with consensus government. However, part of the public feels the impartiality question needs to be addressed. In my opinion, it would be in everyone's interest if the Premier did step aside during the inquiry. Again, in my opinion, it is an issue of appropriateness. There is nothing here meant maliciously. I have listened to many people about this issue and now the public expects me to take a stand, even though it may be unpopular with the government and others. This is the highest office in our territory and the Premier needs to set the highest standards. The Premier is there to advance the public interest and to ensure he maintains the public's confidence. I believe by stepping aside from his Premier's duties until the inquiry is finished, the Premier will re-enforce and strengthen the image of integrity, objectivity and impartiality. Accordingly, later today I will give notice that I will move a motion to this regard in this matter. Thank you.

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MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Erasmus.

Member's Statement 480-13(5): Yellowknife
Women's Centre

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about an organization that continually amazes me with its ability to provide services to the women in Yellowknife. I am speaking about the Yellowknife Women's Centre. Mr. Speaker, over the past eight years, the Yellowknife Women's Centre has established itself as an outreach crisis service centre for women and their families. The services provided by the Women's Centre addresses the most basic needs of marginalized women and their families. I am talking about food, clothing and shelter in addition to supportive programming and counselling, parenting, pre-natal and post-natal outreach and family support. Women access the centre for programming that simply does not exist elsewhere in the community, including from the government. The centre is faced with responding to needs and demands of services and referrals from government and non-government agencies in Yellowknife and the NWT.

Mr. Speaker, in 1997-98, the Yellowknife Women's Centre served 375 client families. Those are families, not individual people, at its emergency and crisis location on 47th Street which represented an 87 percent increase over 1996. In other words, the people that they provided services to increased almost double and the majority of those clients are aboriginal people and approximately one-third to one-half of them are from other communities in the Northwest Territories. In this way, the centre is unique because it offers services to people from outside of Yellowknife. It often finds women on its doorstep who have moved to Yellowknife because there are more services here in Yellowknife for their children, they want to get away from an abusive situation or the woman simply has had a baby here and refuses to go home. Unfortunately, while the centre is responding to territorial needs, it only receives funding as a local centre. Mr. Speaker, territorial women's groups receive funding in the hundreds of thousands of dollars, while the centre only receives \$30,000 in core funding. Clearly, such limited funding hardly covers even a partial salary for the executive director, not to mention operating expenses. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Yellowknife North is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Do we have any nays? Mr. Erasmus, you have unanimous consent.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated, having the government refer clients to the Women's Centre for assistance is a double standard in the fact that they are not providing them with sufficient core funding while other women's groups are doing a territorial service and they receive funding several times more than the Women's Centre. The relationship between a government referral and the capacity of non-government organizations to provide services needs to be examined and appropriately funded. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement 481-13(5): Passing of Mary Adele Bishop

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, recently on May 12, 1998, our community lost a well-respected and loved role model and a good friend. Mary Adele Bishop was the wife of Charlie Bishop and the mother of six children as well as grandchildren. Mary Adele was born in Wha Ti on April 10, 1945 to Jonas and Bella Jeremick'a and was married to Charlie on December 26, 1966. At the age of 18 her mother passed away and her father was in Charles Camsell. Mary Adele took the responsibility for and raised her brothers and sisters. Marie Adele was a special person, always full of life and laughter. On the wall in her house her children gave her a plaque for all to see, saying the Greatest Mom Award. Mary Adele was a loving and kind woman. She was like a mother to those who needed comfort and advice. She was always there when she was needed. She always encouraged people to work well together, not to gossip, but to forgive each other.

Since the mid-1970s, Mary Adele has worked as a community health representative for Rae-Edzo. The staff depended on her like an elder. She always knew the right thing to say to people whether they were young or old. With her experience as a mother, she was well able to give good advice to the young women. Her humour, sensitivity toward people and her language and cultural skills helped to ease the pain of many people. She was also interested in the youth and their education. She was elected to a local education society. It gave her another avenue to

voice her concerns about culture, language and education for the youth. One of her last messages was not to judge or criticize, but to keep an open mind and an open door to love one another. Marie Adele will be sorrowfully missed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize the Mayor of Arviat, Peter Kritaqlilik and also the SAO, Darren Flynn, who are here in the gallery.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome in the gallery today Eliza Kingdon, one of my Iqaluit constituency assistants, who is here with the Iqaluit Pages. With Eliza, sitting next to her, is her husband, Allan, who is an award winning NTCP lineman. Allan is on his way to Hay River to defend his title at the Second Annual Pole-Top Lineman Rescue Competition. Allan is the oldest man competing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Enuaraq.

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize my wife, Elisapee and also my daughter, Janet. Thank you.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Grand Chief of Treaty 8, Felix Lockhart, also the Chief of Dettah, Jonas Sangris.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Barnabas.

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize my wife, Susanna Barnabas, and Moses Oyukuluk, Mayor of Arctic Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Sam Gallant, working with the UNW here in Yellowknife. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize my wife, Betty, and one of my daughters, Shannon; my youngest daughter, Meeka and a friend of the family, Karen Voudrach.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Nunavut Clerk designate, Mr. John Quirke. Thank you.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 595-13(5): Contract Nursing Arrangements

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I read with interest the statement made by the Honourable Kelvin Ng, Minister of Health and Social Services, on recruitment and retention for health care professionals. I am wondering, Mr. Speaker, can the boards step outside the current available pay package to hire new nurses and medical professionals because that is one of the biggest problems we have with recruitment and retention? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 595-13(5): Contract Nursing Arrangements

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, from what I understand, Mr. Speaker, they still have to follow the collective agreement that the GNWT has with our workers. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 595-13(5): Contract Nursing Arrangements

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, about two weeks ago, there was a protest march by nurses about their pay package, wages, benefits and professional development. I am wondering if the Minister could tell me outside of the scope of the Retention and Recruitment Plan, what is the Minister's department intending to do about those issues which have come up and which are part of the recruitment and retention as addressed in his statement today? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 595-13(5): Contract Nursing Arrangements

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the monetary issues are not dealt with specifically in the Recruitment and Retention Plan. That is under the auspices of the Financial Management Services Board and the collective agreement process that we enter into with our employees, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 595-13(5): Contract Nursing Arrangements

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister in his statement and I will quote, "the most pressing need is to fill vacancies". I am wondering how the Minister intends to fill these vacancies if you cannot offer a better salary package and benefits? Thank you.

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MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 595-13(5): Contract Nursing Arrangements

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe in the statement, it indicates some of the methods that are being used right now. The fact that we have somebody specific in the department who is specifically dealing with recruitment and retention and is trying to develop some of the supports that the nursing profession has indicated to us that they would like to see, a professional development fund so that they could have more opportunities to meet with their peers; the development of a website so that there is more accessibility to some of the possible employment opportunities; a higher awareness of the types of situations; the communities where potential individuals may be going. Those are some of the things that are being pursued in the Recruitment and Retention Plan that is to date, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 595-13(5): Contract Nursing Arrangements

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when I had an opportunity to speak to the nurses that staged a walk-out two weeks ago in Iqaluit, Mr. Barnabas was also present, I believe. The Deputy Premier spoke to them. One of the complaints that they had was about the contract nurses and that is where we do not have nurses working for the government, but we bring them in on a contract. There are occasions where these nurses receive a higher salary base than the nurses actually in place who have made a commitment to the north. I am wondering is that something that the Minister's department is reviewing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 595-13(5): Contract Nursing Arrangements

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that is not something that we are looking at. Obviously, that is not something that we would like to see on a long-term solution, but it is an issue that is out there that the boards are certainly aware of. We have to deal right now with trying to fill some of those vacancies.

We think that by developing some of the longer term strategies that it will obviously bring down the need to have shorter contract type of employees, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Barnabas.

Question 596-13(5): Travel Expenses Assumed by Quebec Government

MR. BARNABAS:

As per my Member's statement earlier today, I would like to ask the Minister of Health why the Quebec Government had to pay for a person who took his family down to see their mother who just recently passed away in Quebec? Why did the Quebec Government have to pay for their travel down to support their family? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 596-13(5): Travel Expenses Assumed by Quebec Government

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of the specific case that the honourable Member is speaking of. I would be glad to speak to him about the details and find out more on the particular circumstances that he is trying to raise.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mrs. Groenewegen.

Question 597-13(5): Access to Criminal Records

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today in his Minister's statement, the Honourable Goo Arlooktoo referred to the federal government's duty with respect to criminal law and the GNWT's participation in the administration of the laws in the Northwest Territories. My question today for the Minister of Justice is, criminal records, territorial and federal court registries can be searched and accessed when necessary, could the Minister tell me, if he knows, how long do

criminal convictions stay on a person's file at court registries? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Minister of Justice, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Return To Question 597-13(5): Access to Criminal Records

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, I do not know that. I will find out. I will take that questions as notice.

MR. SPEAKER:

The question is taken as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Roland.

Question 598-13(5): Increase to Employees' Salary

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question at this time will be directed to the Minister responsible for FMBS. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, I asked Mr. Todd if he could get me more information on the 2 percent salary base increase to employees that were red-circled. He said he would check with his deputy and come back to me with some information. I have not received any. I would like to know if the Minister, at this time, has that information? Is the 2 percent on red-circled employees going to be a part of their next negotiation round if this package is accepted? Because in his response to the first question I asked, he said, in his understanding. His understanding is not generally put down in the contract when it is signed off. What is it now? Is it 2 percent? Will it be there for the next negotiation? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 598-13(5): Increase to Employees'

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Salary

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My understanding is that it will be 2 percent and...

--Laughter

It will be there for the next round.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 598-13(5): Increase to Employees' Salary

MR. ROLAND:

Will the Minister follow that up with a commitment, maybe a letter, going out to all employees as part of their next payroll stuffer saying that if you are red-circled, the 2 percent increase, if accepted, will be a part of your next negotiation round for possible further increases?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 598-13(5): Increase to Employees' Salary

HON. JOHN TODD:

I certainly would be encouraged if the UNW would provide our employees with an opportunity to vote on the contract. Should they do that, which I think they have the moral obligation to do, and should the employees vote favourably, as I am confident they will; then I would be only too happy at that time to advise our employees what I mean by the 2 percent increase to the red-circled employees.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 598-13(5): Increase to Employees' Salary

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is nice to know after the fact when you have signed on the dotted line. People would like to know before that, so that they could be more aware of the decisions or if they are going to call upon their union representatives to call for possible voting on this, but until then, both sides of this negotiation process are playing a game, it seems, and leaving a lot of employees floating in the middle. Will the Minister confirm this 2 percent to employees if accepted? Will it go out, and will employees be able

to know then for everybody to take a solid look at it? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 598-13(5): Increase to Employees' Salary

HON. JOHN TODD:

I am not playing games. First of all, I have been pretty darn clear from the very beginning on this issue. I have made it clear to my honourable colleague, who has asked me this question umpteen times, there is no pay decrease to employees who are red-circled, and the 2 percent increase will be an increase to their base within the red-circle. That is what I have said. That is what I have consistently said and that is what I am saying again today. I do not understand the confusion. Maybe it is in his mind.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 598-13(5): Increase to Employees' Salary

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The confusion is only led by those who can cause it best.

--Applause

Mr. Speaker, so will the Minister send this out in the next payroll as a stuffer to let people know. If it goes out, they will have the ability to vote on it, and the goods are 2 percent as part of your base? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 598-13(5): Increase to Employees' Salary

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It takes one to know one, so Mr. Speaker, I will say to my honourable colleague that I am not so sure I can put it out in the payroll stuffer. I have to be careful with the collective agreement that I am not viewed as trying to influence,

if you want, the employees on how they should vote. If there is a method for me to communicate what I thought I had communicated clearly and succinctly in this House on a number of occasions with respect to the 2 percent increase, I will do so. I am not trying to avoid it. I just want to make sure I do it correctly. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Erasmus.

Question 599-13(5): Professional Development Fund for Nurses

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Health and Social Services. It is in relation to nursing. Mr. Speaker, I have talked to several nurses including some who were here at the demonstration a week or so ago. At that time, they had indicated that there was a great concern with the lack of professional development that was available for the nurses. I am pleased to see there is a professional development fund being contemplated in the Recruitment and Retention Plan. I was wondering if the Minister would be kind enough to elaborate on how the development fund would be used. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 599-13(5): Professional Development Fund for Nurses

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do not have the details on how the fund will be used. The concept of having a professional development fund is one that is widely supported and it is a matter of finding the funds in consultation with our partners, the boards, in putting it together and having obviously the professionals themselves take part in the

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guidelines for establishing how those funds could be accessed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 599-13(5): Professional Development Fund for Nurses

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would it be safe to say that some of the things that are being contemplated are the ability to go to conferences or workshops and short courses down south to update skills and knowledge that the nurses have? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 599-13(5): Professional Development Fund for Nurses

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I could say that would certainly be one of the higher priorities for funding with this fund, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 599-13(5): Professional Development Fund for Nurses

MR. ERASMUS:

Mr. Speaker, another concern which was raised, of course, is the inability to recruit and retain nursing staff in the smaller communities. I am aware the Minister had indicated that the plan will attempt to address this. The Stanton Board has talked about the possibility of establishing a recruitment nursing pool from which nurses could be provided to the regions for certain periods of time and then come back to work in Yellowknife for a certain period of time and back to the community. Is the Minister aware of such a proposal and could he indicate what he thinks of it?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 599-13(5): Professional Development Fund for Nurses

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are fully aware of that proposal. In fact, I believe it was a departmental initiative at the start. They have it based here in Yellowknife. To have that take place, the involvement of the Stanton Board is critical, as well, as they provide a lot of the services not only for Yellowknife but for some of the surrounding areas. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 599-13(5): Professional Development Fund for Nurses

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that the Minister has been working with several partners on this plan. Could the Minister indicate how this particular aspect, the nursing pool based in Yellowknife is being received by the rest of the partners? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 599-13(5): Professional Development Fund for Nurses

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this Recruitment and Retention Plan was done very broadly with as much input from the professional associations, health care associations and the boards, as possible. In that respect there is very broad support for it and, hopefully, with that greater opportunities for success as well. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 600-13(5): Labour Standards Act Amendments

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is to Mr. Arlooktoo, the Minister responsible for Justice. During the last sitting of this Legislature, I had introduced and a motion was passed in this House for the Minister to relook at sections of the Labour Standards Act as it

deals with contract employees. This affects many workers in the Northwest Territories, Mr. Speaker. I believe, we had demonstrated to the Minister the need for changes to this legislation. My question to the Minister is, can he update the House on how his department has acted on this motion? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Justice, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Return To Question 600-13(5): Labour Standards Act Amendments

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if I recall correctly, the issue had to do with how the Labour Standards Act dealt with commission workers and professionals and some inconsistencies and some old parts of the legislation that did not treat the employers fairly in some cases and employees in other cases. The government and the department have taken the motion that the Member referred to heart, and we have started some of the consultation. I am informed that the deputy minister of Justice has written to a number of stakeholders and interest groups on what they see as required changes to the act. We are planning for these changes to be drafted up to go through the committee process and the House as part of a bill this fall. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 600-13(5): Labour Standards Act Amendments

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I would like to thank the Minister for that and also for his correction. I believe I did say contract employees, and the Minister is correct to point out commission employees. Could the Minister just assure us again that this legislation will be introduced in the fall? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 600-13(5): Labour Standards Act Amendments

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is our intention. Originally, the department had felt that because it was a complicated part of law and the fact that we do have many other things on the plate as far as legislation is concerned, it would require some more time. However, we will be following closely some changes that were made in Alberta in their employment standards code and their employment standards' regulations. We believe they are very close to what is required here in the north. We have every intention to put these amendments through the House in October. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions, Mr. Ningark.

Question 601-13(5): Kitikmeot Boarding Home Condition

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to my colleague, Mr. Ng, the Minister of Health and Social Services. As I mentioned earlier, last week, the Minister and I had the opportunity and the pleasure of attending the Kitikmeot Leaders Forum in Kugluktuk, formerly Coppermine. Many issues were raised. Mr. Ng and I were asked questions. One of those is in relation to the operation of the Kitikmeot Boarding Home. My question has to do with not the management, but with the conditions within that building. One of the concerns was there is no air conditioning in the facility. Many pregnant women, children and elders pass through that facility, and we appreciate that from the Kitikmeot Region. My question is, will the Minister direct his staff to communicate with the Kitikmeot Health Board in order to put air conditioning in before mid-summer sets in? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 601-13(5): Kitikmeot Boarding Home Condition

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the issue of air conditioning for the Kitikmeot Boarding Home, the Lena Peterson Boarding Home has been an ongoing issue since it has been established. My honourable Member points a hand for five years. I think it is safe to say that the board recognizes the problems. They have, in consultation with DPW, I understand, looked at some options that have been developed, I believe, last year. I do not know at what stage they have taken those options or if they have made a decision on an avenue that they want to pursue, but certainly it is an issue. I will be glad to directly speak to the Kitikmeot Health Board in trying to resolve this matter in conjunction with the Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 601-13(5): Kitikmeot Boarding Home Condition

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for that reply. How soon will the honourable Minister communicate with the Kitikmeot Health Board in the Kitikmeot region? If he did, when will he get back to me? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 601-13(5): Kitikmeot Boarding Home Condition

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I can possibly, before we commit to doing that, before the end of this week and get back to the Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Ningark.

Supplementary To Question 601-13(5): Kitikmeot Boarding Home Condition

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I recognize the commitment of the Minister, but will the Minister

ensure that the air conditioning is in place before mid-summer sets in? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 601-13(5): Kitikmeot Boarding Home Condition

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there was from what I recall, significant costs involved due to the structure of the facility when they first undertook to look at that. I cannot definitively say if it is going to be done. I will make the commitment that if it can be done in an affordable and efficient way that we can assist them to try and do that, but I would like to first of all hear from the board on the continuing concerns that heat during the summer months is a problem for patients. If that is the case, we will try to work with them to try and remedy the situation. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 601-13(5): Kitikmeot Boarding Home Condition

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, significant cost, but we are paying the utility to utilize it. Will the Minister ensure the patients of the Kitikmeot region that this government is willing to ensure that we have a quality boarding home because we are paying for it? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 601-13(5): Kitikmeot Boarding Home Condition

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in respect to all facilities that we fund, we would try and ensure that it has the highest quality possible in its operations. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 602-13(5): Support for Land Claim Seminars

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, Mr. Antoine, with regard to my statement for an initiative, Mr. Ross to educate the public in the areas of self-government, aboriginal claims and the whole area of treaty rights. I would like to ask the Minister, what is his department doing to assist in the promotion of aboriginal issues and expanding the knowledge of the general public on what these outstanding aboriginal issues are, and especially in the area of the treaty process, claims and also the self-government process? How is he working along with such efforts like the ones that are being presented by Mr. Ross and his department?

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 602-13(5): Support for Land Claim Seminars

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Aboriginal Affairs is trying to inform the public via this forum here to bring up different issues of concern and updating on the different claims issues and self-government negotiations within this forum, as well as making presentations to the respective aboriginal First Nations and Metis organizations at their meetings. It is an ongoing process, Mr. Speaker that we, as the Government of the Northwest Territories, have a position in these areas and we are trying to express that position in all of these areas. With regard to Mr. James Ross' business of trying to facilitate this discussion, it is another option people have. He provides a service and if different individuals, this government, different companies or industries are interested in taking up Mr. James Ross' business proposal, it is really up to them which gives them an avenue to explore and talk about the issues regarding aboriginal treaty and land claims issues. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 602-13(5): Support for Land Claim Seminars

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in light of the whole area of consultation, there are a lot of people within the bureaucracy of the government, not only the general public, who are basically new to the north who do not have much of a cultural awareness of the different tribal make up of the different groups of people in the north and also the history of the north and the whole area, which makes the Northwest Territories unique in the context that there are treaties still being acted upon. We have Treaty 8 and Treaty 11. You have the different land claim settlements between the Inuvialuit, the Gwich'in, the Sahtu. Claims are being negotiated in other areas. There has to be more of an effort by this government to ensure the general public and the people who work within this government are aware that there is a serious component to this government. More money has to be spent on communication and efforts have to be made to educate those people who do not understand the history of the north. I would like to ask the Minister, how much money has been spent to date to educate people in the whole area of claims and the history of the Northwest Territories?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 602-13(5): Support for Land Claim Seminars

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the whole area of awareness in the Northwest Territories and the honourable Member called it unique, for me, it is not unique. It is common for me because as an aboriginal person with that background and coming from that arena in politics, it is not unique for me. It is common for all of us. It may be unique for other people who are not familiar with the situation in the north. In that way, it is unique. However, Mr. Speaker, this department, as well as this government, has supported the land claims, is supporting the inherent right to self-government and we are at the negotiating tables and we are discussing these really key issues with the support that we have with this

whole initiative. At the same time, Mr. Speaker, there is a constitutional development process that is going on and you cannot separate that process away from what is going on with self-government negotiations. There is an awareness factor that has to be considered and that this information on the whole revolving involvement of the self-government negotiations at the table has to be shared with the north. The reality is that this whole government here after division and after self-government negotiations are concluded, this government will not be the same government.

This has to go out to the communities and we are attempting to do that through the Constitutional Working Group where we are having workshops in the communities. We have developed a book called, Common Ground, and a newsletter which lay out a couple of approaches on how to do it. There are a lot of components that people have to know in the communities about treaty rights, aboriginal rights and the inherent right to self-government. That is going on. Exactly how much money is going to the whole process over the years? It is quite a few. If you start looking at the land claims negotiations and how much money was spent toward it, the self-government negotiations and how much money was spent toward it and the whole constitutional development process, there are huge sums of money that we have spent in to develop this process to share this information and to create a dialogue in the communities. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 602-13(5): Support for Land Claim Seminars

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, could the Minister tell me in the overall budget of his department how much money is being spent for communications regarding the whole concern of aboriginal rights, self-government arrangements? He mentioned the constitution. I believe there is a process for that, but there is no real process with regard to educating the public on the general framework of land claim

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agreements or treaty rights. Does he have an overall budget to look at those things with regard to informing

the public and in educating the general public on those issues?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 602-13(5): Support for Land Claim Seminars

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs is a very small department. We have about 20 personnel in that department. We have a fairly small budget of which we are stretched pretty thin in terms of trying to cover all the bases with regard to being at the negotiating table for land claims as well as self-government arrangements. We have a very small budget for grants and contribution and exactly how much money we have going toward educating the public with regard to what the honourable Member is asking for, I do not have that at my fingertips. I will have to dig it up from my department and get back to him. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 602-13(5): Support for Land Claim Seminars

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, could the Minister make an attempt to work along with individuals such as Mr. Ross or any other group that is making the effort to go out of their way to promote and educate the people in the area of claims, self-government and treaty rights because I believe it is an important aspect that some of us may take for granted but for others they do not have a clue as to what those issues are? I think it is important that we start to work along with those interested groups and parties to assist them to basically bring individuals from the government through the bureaucracy into some sort of a cultural awareness program to make them aware that the north just did not happen or pop up in one day. It has been here for several days. Could the Minister make that effort?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 602-13(5): Support for Land Claim Seminars

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs as we do our work, we need additional help from time to time and we secure the services of different individuals. We have used Mr. James Ross' services in the past for different occasions and we will continue to do that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Steen.

Question 603-13(5): Commissioner's Award for Tuktoyaktuk Youth

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am directing my question to the Minister responsible for Justice. I am assuming he is responsible for the Commissioner's Award Committee. I would like to ask him if his department would assist in assuring that Daryll James Gruben is considered for an award. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Deputy Premier, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Return To Question 603-13(5): Commissioner's Award for Tuktoyaktuk Youth

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the department is not directly involved with the Commissioner's Award, but because of our contacts and the people we work with, we have assisted others in going through the Awards Committee in doing the necessary research and the arrangements, et cetera. I will assist the Member in making the contacts and making sure that the Awards Committee is well aware of the wish of the Member. Also, I will ask Mr. Tony Whitford, who helps coordinate these awards, to talk to the Member in making the arrangements. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 604-13(5): Update on Public/Private Partnership Projects

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for the FMBS, Mr. Todd. It is in reference to the P3 projects in Nunavut. Could the Minister give us a brief update as to where these projects stand as of this date?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 604-13(5): Update on Public/Private Partnership Projects

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as my honourable colleague knows, the projects have been identified that we think can go forward as potential P3 projects, everything from hospitals to water reservoirs in Fort McPherson. The departments are moving as quickly as they can to either get them to RFP or RFQ depending on the size of the project. We are optimistic that we can get some of them on the ground this year. We are running out of time, as some would say, in terms of some of the larger projects, but we are optimistic that we will have some of the projects moved forward this spring and summer, probably in the late fall. As I said, we are moving as quickly as we can to bring most of these projects forward through a public tender RFQ and RFP process. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 604-13(5): Update on Public/Private Partnership Projects

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the Interim Commissioner has to sign off these various projects. Could the Minister inform the House as

to what level of signing authority that the Interim Commissioner can sign for? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 604-13(5): Update on Public/Private Partnership Projects

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have a protocol agreement with the Interim Commissioner which we signed in relationship to either current contracts that require a continuance, for example, an extension of leases or for any new projects which go beyond April 1, 1999. I think there is a 30-day turn around time in terms of putting Project A out. Let us use my colleague's riding. His interest, for example, would be for the health centre. Let us assume the health centre goes out and an appropriate group of companies or company is selected at the end of July or earlier and there is a fiscal requirement that goes beyond April 1, 1999. We would advise the Interim Commissioner. We would seek his concurrence and proceed with it. There would be a protocol agreement which would have been signed, which allows us to do that. His level of fiscal responsibility, I am not sufficiently knowledgeable of that today, but I will look into that and report back to my colleague before the session closes. I can say again that there is a protocol agreement in place which enables us to move forward in a timely and orderly way with the Interim Commissioner's office for commitments in Nunavut that go beyond April 1, 1999. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 604-13(5): Update on Public/Private Partnership Projects

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the recent agreement that was just signed between Health Canada and the GNWT in the last number of weeks, can the Minister tell us if this will in any way impact on the projects that are moving forward in Nunavut?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 604-13(5): Update on Public/Private Partnership Projects

HON. JOHN TODD:

Theoretically, it should not. As I say, we have a protocol agreement between the Interim Commissioner's office and this current government. We are mandated until April 1, 1999, to continue to expend funds as voted in this House. As I said for the protocol agreement, it should not. There is some concern that is being raised out there with respect to some of the larger projects, in particular, the hospital facilities in Iqaluit. We are talking about Nunavut. I am not anticipating any major problem with this initiative once we get it on the ground and we get proponents coming forward with reasonable proposals. Of course, as I have said in the House the other day to a question raised by Mr. Ootes, that clearly we need to do a cost benefit analysis and it has to be in the interest of the government, both this one and the future governments. It has to be in the fiscal interest that we proceed to these projects. Certainly, that is our intent, and we are trying to move as expeditiously as possible. Hopefully, we will get some of these projects on the ground this year. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 604-13(5): Update on Public/Private Partnership Projects

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a point of clarification to my earlier question. At what point does the Interim Commissioner sign off these projects? Is it after the total cost is known or prior to?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 604-13(5): Update on Public/Private Partnership Projects

HON. JOHN TODD:

My understanding of the protocol agreement is that right now, and again, if we use the Arviat Health Care facility, assuming we get successful proposals, we have asked the Interim Commissioner's office, at the

bureaucratic level, to be part of our P3 management team, so they will be involved on the front end. We are doing that for obvious reasons. We want to bring them into this important initiative, but secondly, we want to bring them in early so there is no time lapse, that we minimize the time lapse in the decision making. I am optimistic that if, for example, the government of the day receives a proposal on this date, if it is 30 days, to make a decision, that they will be able to make that decision within that 30 day, 15 day or 20 day policy that we have. We will make it in conjunction with the Interim Commissioner's office to expedite early acceptance of the proposal, so we can move forward and get these projects done. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 605-13(5): Collective Bargaining Final Offer Update

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I understand that a final contract offer has now been made to the UNW. Can the Minister of FMBS update this House on this final offer? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 605-13(5): Collective Bargaining Final Offer Update

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, a final offer has been made. My honourable colleague has a copy of the final offer. I did send a letter to all the Members of the Legislative Assembly today, outlining my response to the concerns raised by the UNW and their ongoing serial, the best thing since sliced bread. We have tried to respond in a professional and comprehensive way to answer some of the requests or concerns that they have outlined. As I said consistently, the final offer is on the table. We have said to them, we are prepared to go back to the table

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provided they understand there is a limited amount of freedom here in terms of discussions and we will go

back to the table provided the PSA negotiator understands we are negotiating a new job evaluation system. The door is open, and we are prepared to sit down with them. However, if they are not prepared to do that, I said again, publicly today and I notice that we are getting some considerable support out there from the membership, that they should put this final offer, which I think is a reasonable one, to the Members to vote on and we will live with the consequences of that and our actions accordingly. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 605-13(5): Collective Bargaining Final Offer Update

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, here we have an example of the government using tax payers' dollars to mount their own propaganda campaign on how great this offer is and the UNW negotiating through their collective bargaining process which has been in this democratic country of Canada since the 1920s where you appoint a union negotiating team to negotiate your contract in this case the GNWT wants to take it directly to the employee. I think people see that for what it is. I am wondering, after this final offer is on the table, that Mr. Todd has talked about, is he still prepared to go to the next process in the collective bargaining, which is the mediation process? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 605-13(5): Collective Bargaining Final Offer Update

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have an obligation and a responsibility to advise our employees and this House with all the information that we have provided the UNW in the negotiations, and that is what we have done. Nothing else, nothing more. You can pepper it any way you want, but that is what we have done. We have not used rhetoric. We have not used irrational statements. We have tried to be as concise, fair and as reasonable as possible. I said in the House to the same question that Mr. Picco or

somebody asked earlier last week, are you prepared to go to mediation? Anytime.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 605-13(5): Collective Bargaining Final Offer Update

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are all entitled to our opinion. He has one and I have one. Mr. Speaker, the final offer is on the table, so what is then, the next step, Mr. Todd? Has he given them a date to get back on this final offer? Has he given them a week or two weeks? Is it just sitting there or is he going to continue the same rhetoric of asking to go to their bargaining unit, to their members? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 605-13(5): Collective Bargaining Final Offer Update

HON. JOHN TODD:

It is important, Mr. Speaker, to say that I would hope that people did not see my comments as rhetoric, that they would see it as factual information that we are placing before the membership, this House and the public. We are waiting for the union. It is the union's next move. We have laid the final offer on the table in a fair, reasonable and professional way, and we are waiting to hear from the union whether they are prepared to move to mediation. I have said publicly last week, two-minutes ago, and I will say again, we are ready to go to mediation if that is what they so wish. I do not see it as rhetoric. I see it as information.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 605-13(5): Collective Bargaining Final Offer Update

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In all the verbiage that has been used during this negotiation session, the impasse is being lost. The impasse is the job classification system. I am wondering, is the Minister or the government willing to look at their job classification system as introduced and to see if there is some type of middle ground that can be reached with this verbiage? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 605-13(5): Collective Bargaining Final Offer Update

HON. JOHN TODD:

Verbiage. I thought again, Mr. Speaker, it is important that the tone be civilized and professional. I thought what we were doing was providing valuable information, so that people can make a valid judgment on whether the offer that we present to our employees is fair and reasonable. With respect to my honourable colleague's question with respect to the Hay Plan Evaluation - I believe that was his question - we have consistently said and asked the union to be our partners in this process and, in fact, Mr. Speaker, they did sign with us a memorandum of understanding that they were prepared to do that. They signed a memorandum of understanding that they were prepared to do that and then, at a later date, chose not to participate. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 606-13(5): Pay Equity and Collective Bargaining Process

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are in regard to pay equity and the collective agreement as well. Could the Minister indicate how long he anticipates the offer being on the table, should mediation occur or not occur? At what point will the offer be taken off the table? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

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Supplementary To Question 606-13(5): Pay Equity and Collective Bargaining Process

HON. JOHN TODD:

The Minister at the national level has indicated that he may, in fact, take the offer off the table at the national level because of some of the court cases that are underway right now. I have said publicly that the offer we have on the table stays. I would hope again, and I hope I am being direct here and not using idle rhetoric and, in fact, I am making a sincere commitment. I would hope that the UNW would see, in their wisdom, that this is the final offer and that they have an obligation and a responsibility to put it out to the membership. At this time, I have no intentions, along with my Cabinet colleague of taking the offer off the table. It is there, and we hope at some point we will get to a vote and hopefully, at the end of the day, our members and our constituents, will see the merits in this and vote, hopefully, favourably for it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 606-13(5): Pay Equity and Collective Bargaining Process

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Has the Minister indicated that there have been some recent court rulings that have changed the legal landscape in regard to pay equity? In fact, the Minister has indicated previously that, my understanding is, they are going to the courts to see if they could have, based on those new court rulings, the pay equity complaint struck down. If that is, in fact, the case and given the fact there is significant competition for scarce resources as we will be seeing in this House when we vote on the motion for education, at that point, would the Minister be prepared to consider, if there is no movement in taking part of that money and putting it to some of these demands for scarce resources? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. I have to rule the question out of order. Mr. Miltenberger, you have a final supplementary.

Supplementary To Question 606-13(5): Pay Equity and Collective Bargaining Process

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sooner or later, I suppose we will have to address those hard issues of scarce resources and competing demands. Could the Minister indicate then, is it still the intent of the government to proceed to the courts to have the pay equity complaint struck down based on the new recent court cases that have changed the legal landscape in that regard? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 606-13(5): Pay Equity and Collective Bargaining Process

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, if you will allow me, I would like to answer the question this way. The short answer is, yes, that is what we intend to do. I fundamentally believe that we have an opportunity to solve a problem that has been outstanding for nine to ten-years. Some of it is inherited and we have made a concerted and sincere effort to find the money to resolve it.

I believe that what the government tabled is fair and reasonable and our employees should get the opportunity to vote on this issue because, at the end of the day, if we do not, it gets into a long protracted court battle. It could go on for another ten years.

What I am saying to everybody out there is here is an opportunity for us to settle the dispute. It is fair. We think it is. We think we made a considered effort to change the job evaluation process. It is not a complaint. For whatever reason, the UNW chose not to participate after they signed a memorandum of understanding. I would hope, at the end of the day, they would give our employees and our constituents the opportunity to vote on this reasonable and fair settlement, so we can conclude this long, outstanding and important issue that has faced our employees. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Erasmus.

Question 607-13(5): MOU on Hay Evaluation System Examination

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Finance. Mr. Speaker, in answer to Mr. Picco's questions very recently, in fact, ten-minutes ago, he had indicated the UNW and the GNWT's negotiators had signed an MOU to form a committee. Would the Minister indicate what did the MOU indicate that they had agreed to do?

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 607-13(5): MOU on Hay Evaluation System Examination

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, colleague. The memorandum of understanding, I have provided a copy to all of my colleagues today. It is probably on your desk right now. It was a memorandum of understanding that we would examine the job evaluation system and the point ratings to satisfy that they are bias-free. It was a genuine, collaborative effort to try to reach a resolve to the issue. They signed that on March 8, 1998. For a variety of reasons, of which I am not aware, and I certainly impute any other motives, for whatever reason, they chose not to attend. That was unfortunate and I think we need to get on with it. I already indicated in answers to earlier questions, earlier last week, that we are prepared to work with our partners, the UNW, on their concerns when they clearly identify what they are. We will deal with them in a pragmatic, constructive way. We will try to work in a spirit of compromise, to answer some of the questions they have and to make the adjustments where we can make them. A common sense approach to this thing. In the meantime, what we have on the table I think, is fair. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 607-13(5): MOU on Hay Evaluation System Examination

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MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In conversations with union officials, I have been informed that actually the meeting that had been scheduled was, in fact, an information session on how the GNWT was going to

implement the new pay equity scheme. Could the Minister indicate if this is true or not?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 607-13(5): MOU on Hay Evaluation System Examination

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our intention was to work with the UNW to work through some of the minor problems with it they have, they have identified or are trying to identify in the Hay Plan evaluation system. In the memorandum it says the UNW has not yet had the opportunity to examine the job evaluation system on point ratings to satisfy itself they are bias-free. Priorities agreed that a series of joint briefing sessions on the Hay Plan, the evaluation system, commence immediately. The intention there was to work through, with them, where the problems were, so we could reach the appropriate compromises and make the appropriate changes, that we deemed necessary, together. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 607-13(5): MOU on Hay Evaluation System Examination

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister had indicated he had provided this document to the Members. I have not had an opportunity to see this, but I know union members are also interested and I am not aware what the confidentiality is, of this document, but is the Minister willing to table this document? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 607-13(5): MOU on Hay Evaluation System Examination

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker. I want to be clear here, because I do not want to be seen as an antagonist on this issue. I think we have avoided that, certainly have tried to

over the last three or four months, and certainly, in my response to questions in this House. I am providing this to my colleagues in a spirit of information and a spirit of openness to show and illustrate that what we have done, what I believe is everything possible, to try to bring the UNW into the issue of the Hay Plan evaluation system and what we believe is a reasonable evaluation system. It is used across Canada in both provincial jurisdictions, as well as in the private sector. At the end of the day, people should be aware of that. It is not just propaganda. It is factual information that we are providing.

I will check with my staff and I am sure I could probably table it, but he does have it on his desk, right now. I believe it just got to you today. I will go check and if I can table all this information, I would be prepared to do that tomorrow. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 607-13(5): MOU on Hay Evaluation System Examination

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to thank the Minister for checking it out to see if he can table this document as the general public, as well as, union members are undecided as they are getting different stories, and this is clearly exemplified in a letter that was in the News of the North today, calling for a vote on the issue, because people do not know what to believe. I would like to thank the Minister for attempting to table this. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions, Mr. Henry.

Question 608-13(5): Status of GNWT Warehouse Offer

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to Minister responsible for Public Works and Services, Mr. Antoine. It is to do with the liquor warehouse in Yellowknife.

As Members are probably aware, Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories had offered the site that the liquor warehouse is presently located on in Yellowknife. There was a plebiscite between

the residents of Yellowknife as to whether they wished to borrow additional funds to build a twin pad arena. That plebiscite was turned down. My question to the Minister is, can he advise us today, what the status of that offer of that land and building is to the city of Yellowknife? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Minister responsible for Public Works and Services, Mr. Antoine. Question period is over.

Return To Question 608-13(5): Status of GNWT Warehouse Offer

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Yellowknife warehouse that was made as an offer to the city of Yellowknife, trying to deal with their twin pad arena, and the condition was that they would use it if they so decide to go for the twin pad arena. Since their vote was not favourable, what we have done is, we have re-evaluated the situation as a government and with this department and we are going to retain the building. We know there is a lot of interest since the decision by the city not to go ahead with the original plan. However, upon reviewing what they are required in terms of warehouse spaces, this department recommended and the government accepted the recommendation that we retain the building for the use of storage and so forth. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. I have seven written questions. Item 7, written questions, Mr. Henry.

ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written Question 19-13(5): Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Working Group

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MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written question is to the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. It is to do with the Mackenzie Valley Land and Working Group. Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act was reintroduced as Bill C-6, and was subsequently passed. The act will establish public boards such as the proposed

Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board to regulate the use of land and water, within their jurisdiction.

1. Can the Minister provide me with a draft of the board's land use plans that will guide the development of land, water and other resources within the board's jurisdiction?
2. Can the Minister provide detailed information, describing the board's environmental assessment and review process?
3. Can the Minister provide a draft of the board's proposed regulations that will govern land and water use?
4. Can the Minister provide assurances that all northerners will have an equal and effective opportunity to participate and affect the regulation of land and water use?
5. The bill provides for additional regional boards to be established in the Deh Cho, North Slave and South Slave areas. Has the Minister considered organizational issues such as the duplication of effort and economies of scale?
6. The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's process of environmental assessment and review will replace the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act process, which will no longer apply, except in limited circumstances. Can the Minister describe under what circumstances will the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act apply and the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act not apply?
7. Can the Minister provide the criteria and selection process for members of the Mackenzie Valley and the Water Board and how will this process be formed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 8: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Return to Written Question 15-13(5): Discussions Regarding Nunavut Civil Servants

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, Return to Written Question 15-13(5), asked by Mr. Picco, to the Chairman of the Financial

Management Board, concerning discussions regarding Nunavut civil servants.

There have been ongoing discussions between the Office of the Interim Commissioner (OIC), the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Union of Northern Workers regarding a Labour Relations protocol that would deal with employee issues leading up to and following the creation of two new territories on April 1, 1999.

This matter was most recently raised during collective bargaining with the Union of Northern Workers in early May. The parties concluded that the issue needed to be dealt within a different forum where the OIC representatives could be directly involved. Further discussions are required involving all three parties in order to finalize any agreement.

Return to Written Question 16-13(5): Baffin Driver Examiner

Return to Written Question 16-13(5), asked by Mr. Picco, to the Minister of Transportation, concerning the Baffin driver examiner.

On Wednesday, May 27, 1998, the Member for Iqaluit asked the Minister of Transportation when the department would replace its Baffin driver examiner.

Staffing action has been initiated to replace the Baffin driver examiner. If all goes well, the Department could have a new driver examiner as early as July, 1998.

In the meantime, the Department of Transportation is arranging for visits by the Chief Driver Examiner to perform testing in Iqaluit as necessary.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Mr. Enuaraq.

ITEM 12: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON THE REVIEW OF BILLS

BILL 19, An Act to Amend the Dental Profession Act

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was to report to the Legislative Assembly that the Standing Committee on Social Programs has reviewed Bill 19, An Act to

Amend the Dental Profession Act, and wishes to report that Bill 19 is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive rule 17(5), and have Bill 19 moved into Committee of the Whole for today. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Member for Baffin Central is seeking unanimous consent to waive rule 17(5). Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Enuaraq, you have unanimous consent. Bill 19 will be moved into Committee of the Whole for today. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Antoine.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Tabled Document 103-13(5): Communique on the Meeting of Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers of Aboriginal Affairs and Leaders of National Aboriginal Organizations

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HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled, Meeting of the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers of Aboriginal Affairs and Leaders of the National Aboriginal Organizations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Tabling of documents. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Tabled Document 104-13(5): Information Package on Federal Proposal for Reform of Young Offenders System

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a document entitled, Information Package on Federal Proposal for Reform of Young Offenders System. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Tabling of documents, Mr. Roland.

Tabled Document 105-13(5): Letter from Constituents Regarding Pay Equity/Collective Bargaining

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a letter, sent to me from fellow constituents regarding the pay equity complaint. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Tabling of documents. Mr. Henry.

Tabled Document 106-13(5): Package of Letters from UNW Members Regarding Pay Equity/Collective Bargaining

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table a package of 19 letters from UNW members in my constituency, expressing their concerns with the pay equity issues and Hay Plan classification system impasse with the GNWT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Tabling of documents. Mr. Rabesca.

Tabled Document 107-13(5): Package of Letters from Dogrib Residents Regarding Adequate Funding for Education

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a package of 14 letters, signed by my constituents in the Dogrib region. Mr. Speaker, these letters urge this Legislative Assembly to ensure adequate funding is available for schools and education, which is a top priority with this Assembly. Thank you.

Tabled Document 108-13(5): Report on the Payment of Indemnities, Allowances and Expenses to Members of the 13th Legislative Assembly

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Tabling of documents. In accordance with section 34(1) of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council, I wish to table the report of the payments and indemnities allowance and expenses to Members of the 13th Legislative Assembly for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1998.

--Applause

Item 14, notices of motion. Mr. Ootes.

ITEM 14: NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Motion 20-13(5): Request for Premier to Relinquish His Responsibilities

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, June 3, 1998, I will move the following motion:

Now therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that this Legislative Assembly requests the Premier, the Honourable Don Morin, to relinquish his responsibilities as Premier until the public inquiry into the conflict of interest complaint filed against him is concluded and the report tabled and dealt within the Legislative Assembly.

And further, that the Deputy Premier assumes full responsibility for the day-to-day management of the Government of the Northwest Territories.

And furthermore, that the Honourable Don Morin remains as Minister without portfolio, but not attend meetings of Cabinet and the Financial Management Board. Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will be seeking unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motions for first reading of bills. We will take a 15-minute break.

--Break

MR. SPEAKER:

The House will come back to order. We are on Item 16, motions. Motion 18-13(5). Mr. Erasmus.

ITEM 16: MOTIONS

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to read the following motion.

Motion 18-13(5): Support for Additional Funding for Education

WHEREAS the Northwest Territories has the highest student/teacher ratio in Canada; and

WHEREAS the teachers in the Northwest Territories are facing increasing challenges, including diverse

and multi-grade classes with fewer and inadequate resources; and

WHEREAS nearly one half of the students in the Northwest Territories require specific supports in the classroom, and approximately half of these students receive them; and

WHEREAS the majority of Northwest Territories students who participated in the national School Achievements Indicators Programs tests ranked below an acceptable level in most areas; and

WHEREAS there are 18,000 adults in the Northwest Territories who can be classified as illiterate or semi-illiterate; and

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WHEREAS most communities in the Northwest Territories do not have stable funding for adult basic education with only 35 Northwest Territories communities having permanent adult educators; and

WHEREAS adult basic education includes academic upgrading, pre-employment training and personal skill development; and

WHEREAS alternative delivery approaches, supports for students, community involvement and accredited programs are necessary to achieve success in adult education; and

WHEREAS most jurisdictions have been revising their curricula to place more emphasis on the core subject areas of reading, writing, mathematics and science; to return to more objective criteria and expectations; and to return to more traditional teaching methods; and

WHEREAS about 45 percent of new jobs created in this decade will require a minimum of 16 years of education; and

WHEREAS the Northwest Territories high school graduation rate is only 25 percent of enrolment, while the national average is 68 percent.

NOW THEREFORE, I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Iqaluit that the Legislative Assembly strongly recommends the Executive Council increase base funding to the Department of Education, Culture and Employment in the 1998/1999 fiscal year with a minimum of the 6 percent reduction that occurred over the past two years. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Clearly the motion outlines many of the problems we face here today and actually the motion needs very little to say in addition to the facts that are related here except to point out that while our population is increasing the fastest in Canada in terms of children being born in the Northwest Territories which is adding to an increasing need for resources in the education area, our dollars have shrunk and we are now trying to keep it stable but in the past they have shrunk. We have increased our student/teacher ratio to the highest in Canada. As well, we have the most poorly educated adults in Canada and this has to change, Mr. Speaker. I will be asking for a recorded vote at the appropriate time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, motions are just recommendations of the Ordinary Members to Cabinet. Motions are not binding or written in stone. I wrote the Minister of FMBS on Friday, and it could be seen as illusionary because they are only recommendations made by this Ordinary Caucus to the government. I should go back and review some of the motions that we have had an opportunity to discuss, in this House, which have had some impact. Specifically, I am thinking about the motion on disclosure that was moved by myself and seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Ootes. The motion on disclosure has now resulted in the tabling of sole-sourced negotiated contracts and salaries. We also had a motion on the seniors' fuel subsidy that was introduced by ...

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Picco, I would like you to speak to the motion, please. To the motion. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am trying to speak to the motion. I am just saying that the motions or explain the motions. Mr. Speaker, I will continue with the motion on education because I think education is seen as a priority of this Assembly and the Chairman of the Financial Management Board

Secretariat indicated in our debate on education that if the Legislative Assembly itself saw education as a priority, then they would follow the lead of the Assembly. If we pass this motion, and I am again saying that it is a recommendation because nothing can be written in stone. We cannot add to the budget. We can only take away. I would ask that the Executive Council, the Premier and his Cabinet take this motion seriously and look at rebating the Department of Education so that our educators, parents, teachers and students will have something to look forward to in this fiscal year and the next. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

To the motion. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not think anyone can argue with the intent of the motion, the whereas elaborated by my colleague from Yellowknife North. While I support the intent of the motion, it is very clear that this is a halfway motion, a feel good motion as my colleague from Iqaluit implied. We are asking for decisions to be made but we give no specifics. Where does the money come from? We do not want to add to the deficit. Where do we take money from? Do we take it from transportation or the pay equity budget that is on the table? Do we shut down other initiatives? Do we limit our capital expenditures on hospitals or schools? I support the intent and the need to find more money for education; however, whether it is possible this year, I do not know. Very clearly we have abrogated our responsibilities somewhat when we ask Cabinet to make all those hard decisions to find us 6 percent which is about \$18 million. The intent is clear, I think, this has been a priority of this Assembly. It is sort of a lame kind of motion. While the intent is noble, I think, we have not given enough substance for Cabinet to do anything, but as Mr. Picco says, to take it as a recommendation and put it on the list of priorities. If we do not deal with it this time, for sure, with the next business planning session it will become an issue. This year, most initiatives are underway and I, for one, would want to be consulted before I find out they have moved huge chunks of money from one part of the budget to another to try to meet this concern. There are priorities in all areas competing for scarce funds, so I will be supporting the motion, Mr. Speaker,

recognizing its shortcomings, but the intent is noble. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I agree

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with my honourable colleague from Fort Smith, Mr. Miltenberger, that we should give direction to Cabinet as to what we expect and where the 6 percent funding we are talking about here is going to come from. Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that we have to put our priorities in order here which comes first, education for the children or other programs that are going on at this point in time including subsidies. Mr. Speaker, one of the concerns expressed in my community in regard to how government spends its money, it is the amount of workshops, conferences and meetings that are being funded by this government which do not seem to have any productive result at the end of them. Perhaps, the government could look at each department cutting down on these workshops and conferences that they sponsor for our employees as well as for the boards and other agencies that are existing today. I have heard comments in my riding, whereby, they say some people just make a living going to meetings with no objective to get anything done except that they get paid to go. Their travel is paid and they have a nice shopping trip, so the government should look into where the priorities are and where they can save money and have more money for education. My other suggestion to the Executive Council of Cabinet is we have to start looking at cutting some subsidies in order to have funding available for education. A good start is the Business Incentive Policy. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. To the motion. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be speaking as part of the motion. I do support the motion, I believe that it summarizes well the concerns that have been raised in this House over the last few days by members. I think that it touches on almost all of the key issues that MLAs have raised on behalf of their constituents in the House and I know we can find \$18 million more

for education. There are many priorities of this government, but I think what this motion says is that it is the highest priority of this Legislature at this time to find this additional 6 percent, put it back in, \$18 million for education. I, for one, will be willing and more than happy to sit down with Members and Cabinet Ministers and look for that \$18 million because I believe we can find it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

To the motion. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, probably as most people, I would have difficulty not supporting more money for education or for health care, but two months ago we just completed a budget exercise where we went along with proposals that were put forward by the government and we had a little bit of input into them, but this House finished up approving a budget. I certainly have not objections to putting additional money into education, but when I talked in this House I talked about putting money into education in future years. I am not going to support this motion that we just do this automatically. I do not know where the money is going to come from. We can find it somewhere, but I do not know if that is correct. Mr. Speaker, as I say, I can support additional funding for education, but it is certainly for the future not just haphazardly. What will it be tomorrow? Will it be something else tomorrow? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is not a feel good motion. I take this motion very seriously and we fully expect the Finance Minister will find the money. Every time we come back to this House, we find another grand scheme the Cabinet has thought up, nobody else knew about. Money is going into it and there is a new supplementary appropriation that we have to approve. Yes, we did approve a budget not that long ago, but everybody in this place here knows that you cannot add money when you are doing a budget. You can only delete. There was no way that we could have added more money to the education budget in that process. The only way you can do that is through a supplementary appropriation which

transfers funds, a supplementary appropriation for new funds or to transfer funds from other areas. There is nothing stopping this government from doing that, as they have done so often in the last couple of years. As Mr. Picco has indicated, there was going to be \$50 million for diamonds, there is also \$40 million for pay equity and neither of these items are shown in the budget. If we can find money for that, we can find money to invest in the children of this Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

I ask for a recorded vote. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Erasmus, the Member for Yellowknife North is asking for a recorded vote. All those in favour please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Erasmus, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Steen, Mr. Ningark, Mr. Evaloarjuk, Mr. Barnabas, Mr. Enuaraq, Mr. Picco, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Krutko, Mr. Rabesca, Mr. Roland, Mr. Miltenberger and Mr. Ootes.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. All those opposed, please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Henry.

MR. SPEAKER:

All those abstaining please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Ng, Ms. Thompson, Mr. Antoine, Mr. Kakfwi, Mr. Morin, Mr. Todd, Mr. Arlooktoo and Mr. Dent.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The results of the motion are: 14 for, one against and eight abstentions. This motion is passed.

--Applause

Mrs. Groenewegen, your point of order please.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week in this House when I spoke about the need for value for money audits so we can identify where this government is perhaps wasting money, Mr. Todd had no sooner sat down, his microphone light went out and he said let us pull those contracts in Hay River that we are paying a premium on, those manufacturing contracts. Just now, Mr. Steen referred to business incentives at the end of his response to the motion.

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Again, Mr. Steen sat down and without the benefit of a lit up microphone, Mr. Arlooktoo said, manufacturing. Everyone knows that the majority of manufacturing in the Northwest Territories takes place in my riding and I am getting sick and tired of these threats that every time we talk about saving money somebody sitting at this side of the table wants to talk about Hay River and wants to talk about manufacturing. That is my point of order. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. To remind the Members, anything that is not recorded is not within the knowledge of this House. I must rule that the Member does not have a point of order. Motions. Are there any further motions? Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to consider my motion today that I gave notice of early regarding the conflict of interest.

MR. SPEAKER:

Do we have a number for that? The Member for Yellowknife Centre is seeking unanimous consent to deal with Motion 20-13(5). Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Ootes, you have unanimous consent.

Motion 20-13(5): Request for Premier to Relinquish His Responsibilities

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the Members of the 13th Legislative Assembly have the authority and responsibility to

recommend the appointment of a person to serve as Premier and head of the Government of the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS the 13th Legislative Assembly on November 22, 1995 through Motion 2-13(1) recommended to the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories appointments to the Executive Council;

AND WHEREAS the 13th Legislative Assembly selected the Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Don Morin, to be Premier and head of the government;

AND WHEREAS the Conflict of Interest Commissioner has ordered that a public inquiry be held into a complaint filed against the Premier;

AND WHEREAS the position of Premier and the Executive Council as a whole should be held in high regard by the residents of the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS it would be in the public interest that the Premier take the necessary action to allay any concerns of territorial residents until the public inquiry is concluded and a report tabled in the Legislative Assembly that he step aside as Premier.

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that this Legislative Assembly requests the Premier, the Honourable Don Morin, to relinquish his responsibilities as Premier until the public inquiry into the conflict of interest complaint filed against him is concluded and the report tabled and dealt within the Legislative Assembly;

AND FURTHER that the Deputy Premier assumes full responsibility for the day to day management of the Government of the Northwest Territories;

AND FURTHERMORE that the Honourable Don Morin remain as Minister without portfolio, but not attend meetings of Cabinet and the Financial Management Board.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Your motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess I would feel this situation would be much different if it would impact negatively on the operation of the Government of the Northwest Territories, but I have every confidence in

the Deputy Premier and the Cabinet Ministers that they can carry on. It is also an opportunity for the Premier and Cabinet to reinforce and strengthen the image and public perception of integrity, objectivity and impartiality in this situation. The Premier is here to advance the image of impartiality, and as I stated earlier in my statement, the report dismissed three allegations, but will proceed with eight through public inquiry. They cover a broad number of areas. This is a tough issue for all of us to deal with, I know, Mr. Speaker, but I feel that those in the public sector have a responsibility to set the tone and feel of what should be considered right to the public.

I have listened to people from my constituency on this matter and I felt it is important for me to listen to them, to make a judgment call and bring forward this motion as a result. This is the highest office in the Northwest Territories and, therefore, our standards must be maintained at an extremely high standard as well. I believe that if the Premier were to step aside for this interim period it would not affect the government operation negatively and, in my opinion, would be in the best interests of all. At the appropriate time, Mr. Speaker, I will be asking for a recorded vote on this matter and I would ask the Premier if he would allow Cabinet Members to vote on this issue in a free vote. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. To the motion. The seconder, Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, feel that the public perception on this matter has to be dealt with and, I believe, that the right thing for the Premier to do is to step down at this time and allow the public hearing to take place and the government to continue to operate without any indulgence by the Premier as the head of this government, but also allow the public to feel that we are allowing this process to be a fair, flowing, public process without any involvement by the Executive and that it is an open process. I think the government can continue to operate with the Deputy Premier at the helm, but I believe we have to allow public perception to be dealt with in regard to a matter in which former complaints were held where the Minister at that time did step down and relinquish his seat until the inquiry was completed. I would like that same process to happen in this instance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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MR. SPEAKER:

To the motion. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have not heard of anyone here in this House, back home in the east, Pelly Bay, Natilikmiot region, nor other media indicating that the Premier of this government is guilty of the allegations. Mr. Speaker, I have not received any phone calls from anyone from my area indicating that the Premier should step down. Someone mentioned that because the Premier is in the highest office in the system, should step down until the inquiry is concluded. At the same time, a person in the highest office is an easy target for the public because people are wanting to be in that place.

I have known the Premier. To me he had a very good influence over people and tried to help people out. I have talked to people back home, not during this time but in the past. All the people I spoke to, in the communities I represent, have high regard for the Premier. Until such time as someone, anyone, my colleagues or the media, indicate to me without doubt the Premier is, in fact, in the wrongdoing position, then I will ask the Premier, not my colleague, for the Premier to stand aside. At this time I think we are predetermining what is going to happen after the inquiry; therefore, I am not in favour of the motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is, indeed, a difficult issue and situation. I have been thinking of it constantly since Friday, when I became aware of the situation and, as events unfolded over the weekend, of what is the best course of action. I, too, have talked to people whose advice I value and whose input is important to me. At the end of the day as we stand here on our own, it is going to be my decision on how I vote on this particular situation. Very clearly, I see this as a political situation where we have one Member of this House challenging another and making many allegations. I am very concerned about the precedent, as well. If we do this and the Premier is forced to step aside on the basis of what are now unsubstantiated allegations, will that open the door in

the future for anyone else that wants to possibly bring a government into gridlock or into some sort of legislative crisis before the facts are proven one way or the other.

Mr. Speaker, I see very many parallels with this situation and the situation I went through within my election, where allegations were made and it was suggested in some corners that I should just resign and have a bi-election and let the people vote again. I considered the allegations to be unfounded and said they would be proven as such and I refused to do that. I think regarding the Premier, while it is somewhat different, there are very many similar parallels.

To me, this particular situation has added meaning. Very clearly, I see a role for this Assembly and that is going to be once the Commissioner makes her ruling and provides her recommendations on what has to be done on the basis of the facts that she ascertains through the resulting inquiry. We may or may not have a role to play at that point, depending on what the outcome is. At this juncture, the Premier has had to talk this over with the people whose advice he values. At the end of the day he had to make his own decision and stand before the people of the Northwest Territories and state his case, which he has done. While he will not answer to all the people of the Northwest Territories in a year from now, he will be accountable, as we all will for the decisions we make in this House.

So Mr. Speaker, I, like my colleague, Mr. Ningark, will not be supporting this motion and will be waiting for the outcome of the Commission of Inquiry to see, in fact, if this Legislative Assembly has to take further action. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, like other Members of the Assembly, it is hard to decide what to do in this particular type of situation. I know, Mr. Speaker, that the Legislative Assembly Executive Council Act, which is what we are dealing with here, remains silent as to whether or not a Member would be required to step down while a conflict of interest procedure was in effect. This seems to suggest that each issue would be dealt with on its own merits and at that point in time, Members would have to decide

whether or not the circumstances require the Member to step down while the investigation goes on. Based on that, at this particular point in time, as a Member, I assume that the Premier, Mr. Morin has been using Cabinet as a sounding board, so to speak, as to whether or not, in fact, he should step down. Based on the statement he made today, I assume that Cabinet supports him in staying in the position he is in, at this point in time. The other points made as to public perception and the overall effectiveness of this government, while the investigation goes on, are taken into consideration as well.

At this point in time, Mr. Speaker, I have no grounds whatsoever to suggest that I should, in fact, support the motion to have the Premier step aside while the investigation goes on. The allegations are there and I do not feel that I should suggest one way or the other whether the allegations are true or not. What we have here is a moral thing, whereby there is no legal requirement for the Premier to step down. The moral obligation may still be there, but that is for him to decide, and therefore, I will not support the motion.

MR. SPEAKER:

To the motion. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Indeed, this is a difficult decision to make as many of the previous speakers have indicated. This is not a decision to be made lightly; however, Mr. Speaker, I cannot support this motion. For one thing, just because the Premier should be held in high regard is no reason to step down when someone makes unsubstantiated allegations.

Secondly, I believe there will be negative connotations. First of all, for the way the government operates. Obviously, you are not going to be as efficient if you do not have a Premier and the rest of the Ministers, whoever would have taken his place, would have to take time from their own departments in order to fulfil that work. I do not like the precedent that would be set, not only for the Premier from here, but Premiers from across Canada, if someone makes an allegation about them, simply

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because they are supposed to be held in high regard, they step down. I do not think that is the way to go. I also wanted to indicate that a person is innocent until

they are proven guilty. I believe we should let the process continue. The next stage is the inquiry and at that point, if the claims are substantiated, then action would be taken in this House. Mr. Speaker, I too have not received any calls asking for the Minister to step down. I have talked to people who wanted clarification as to what was going on, what was in the report and what happens next. I have also consulted with people whom I consider knowledgeable and whose opinions I respect and they have told me they did not feel the Premier should step down and, Mr. Speaker, I cannot support this motion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

To the motion. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as Mr. Erasmus mentioned, a number of Members have spoken about how difficult this question is. I have no doubt that it is very difficult for Mrs. Groenewegen. I have no doubt it is as equally as difficult for the Premier. I have no doubt it is difficult for Mr. Ootes and Mr. Krutko to take the actions they have taken. I know it is difficult for Members here to be talking about ourselves and supposedly judging one of ourselves in an open forum.

Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege and the pleasure of serving the Northwest Territories as a Justice of the Peace, and I remember very early on, sitting in a court room and the accused person would come in. The police officer, whether it was RCMP or local by-law officer would read the charge and give their side of the story. I remember often sitting there, listening to the police officer giving his side of the story and I was thinking, I wonder what this individual is showing up for, he is obviously guilty. I am listening to all this information. It did not take me too long, Mr. Speaker, to find out that there are always two sides to every story. At this stage, my understanding of what the Conflict of Interest Commissioner has advised, in her report is, she needs additional information to make a decision. Something I agree with very much, Mr. Speaker, is an individual's right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty. We extend that to people who have been accused of rape or murder. We can surely extend that privilege in this situation. I have concerns, Mr. Speaker, about the precedent it would set if the Premier was forced to step aside. I think it would open up the potential for accusations to be brought against someone, knowing that a precedent has been set, they would have to step aside. I have

much more concern about the precedent that would set, than what a small period of time it would take until the Conflict of Interest Commissioner will be able to bring forward her report, and give a more definitive answer to the question that has been asked by Mrs. Groenewegen. So, I will not be supporting this motion at this time, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

To the motion. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I, too, have given this item into consideration. I do have some concerns that this has gone to the next level from laying of a conflict of interest complaint to the public inquiry stage. However, without knowing more of it, I cannot at this time, look at anybody else, whether it is the Premier or one of my fellow colleagues from the Ordinary Members' side and say to them that before there is a final result here, I think you should be out of a position. There is still more information that needs to be given and that is what the next stage is for. I know there has been a lot of grey area in this whole matter. We cannot define that just yet and maybe there are many out there who have and many out there who have made their own minds up already. I, for one, cannot make myself predetermine if one is innocent or guilty, not at this stage. When the results come back and at that time, I will make it clear where I stand on any of the issues if what has gone forward has been found to have substance. I would like to say that one other concern I have is, though that the motion calls for the Honourable Don Morin to remain as Minister without portfolio but not to attend meetings of Cabinet and Financial Management Board, I take it they are willing to pay him. If they are going to pay the man, we had better get some work out of him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I do not support the motion.

MR. SPEAKER:

To the motion. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will be abstaining from voting on this motion. I have already expressed in public that I do not believe it would be appropriate for me to pass comment, opinion or judgment on what the Premier should or should not do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

To the motion. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier today I had a Premier's comment on this whole issue of stepping aside as a Premier. I said at that time that I thought it would be setting a dangerous precedent for this government and for all Premiers in Canada because it would encourage individuals to make such broadly worded complaints without specifics and without supporting statements in the expectation that the Premier would step aside. I would like to thank the Members who spoke for support of the process that is underway. The process will, in the end come out with the truth and I have every confidence in that process so I encourage Members to vote whichever way they feel. I have also told Cabinet Members that they have a free vote. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

To the motion. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, some of the Members have noted it is very difficult to judge your own. In other jurisdictions, in other occupations and walks of life, there are different precedents taken for investigations. For example, if you are an RCMP officer and you are under investigation for some aspect of your job, you are temporarily reassigned and taken away from your duties, usually with pay. If you are in the medical profession and you are being disciplined by your organization, or a lawyer, the same thing happens. You are taken away from that position, usually with full pay pending the outcome of your case. In the case of politics, parliamentary process has a strong link to traditions and the precedents are set. Over the past couple of years, there have been at least two cases of Premiers who have been involved in investigations of conflict. One was involving the Premier of Alberta, Mr. Klein,

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who did not step down and also Mr. Van Zalm, the Premier of British Columbia, who did not step down either. The difference between the Premier and the Minister is, the Minister holds a portfolio of the government and usually steps down in the case of federal or provincial governments. An example would be Sinclair Stevens a few years ago.

There is no precedent in the Canadian parliamentary system where the Premier stepped down during an investigation. Premier Morin is correct in saying that it would set a precedent and probably a wrong precedent. This is one of the ramifications of Mr. Ootes' motion. I do not think Mr. Ootes has made the motion callously or deviously. I have spoken to Mr. Ootes about his motion and I believe Mr. Ootes made the motion honourably. Because of the precedents at this time and because the investigation is just opening now and there is going to be a public inquiry where some of us here today may be subpoenaed to appear before that inquiry, I would be, at this time, voting against the motion. My decision is not based upon the facts as presented, but based on the precedents of office. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Enuaraq.

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was almost three and one half years ago when Mr. Premier was running for the Premier's position and most of us were in the House when he was making his speech to become a Premier. I can remember the exact words he was saying to the people of the Northwest Territories. He was saying, "I do not expect respect from you unless I respect you." I think the people of the Northwest Territories had respect for him and Members of this Legislative Assembly had respect for him and that respect will continue until the person is proven guilty. For that reason, Mr. Speaker, I will not be supporting the motion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. To the motion. Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do not think the discussions here today or this motion are about innocence or guilt in reference to the Premier and the allegations. It is about the process. I believe there is some merit in the motion. I also have some reservations regarding the amount of time that we have had to discuss it and have some dialogue with the people back in our ridings. I have had the opportunity to speak to some people regarding the issue and it was a mixed kettle of fish for the most. Some felt that the Premier should step down and some felt that he should not. Nevertheless, I have

thought about this all week. I was home in my riding when the results of the review came out and had an opportunity to listen objectively to some of the comments that were being made. Mr. Speaker, it is difficult at the best of times to look at somebody across the floor and question their integrity or the allegations that are being directed toward them. Having said that, Mr. Speaker, I do not want to be made to feel intimidated and I do not want to feel any type of political threat. I also do not want to make the Premier or his family feel they have been treated unfairly. Mr. Speaker, having said this, I am sure the Premier can understand my comments and my decision on this motion. I have heard at different times from Ministers across the floor to have the courage of your convictions. Mr. Speaker, at this point in time, I feel that, to coin an old phrase, a man has to do what a man has to do. As a result, Mr. Speaker, I will be supporting the motion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. To the motion. Do you have closing remarks, Mr. Ootes?

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is, I gather, a difficult question for a lot of Members and one that is not easy to address. I felt that it needed to be brought forward in the House today to discuss and allow Members to have their say on the matter. I have talked to my constituents, many of them, and certainly the comments that I got back were, that I should make a decision on this. The decision I have made is to put forward this motion. I do not think, by the Premier not being in the Chair of Premier, that it will lead to gridlock of this government. As I mentioned earlier, I have every confidence in the Deputy Premier and Cabinet Members to function properly. I think the government will continue to be effective and will carry on. I am sure the Premier has a lot of work that he undertakes, but there are eight Members and I do not see that they could not take on the particular responsibility of his role.

I said earlier that I did not move on this motion lightly. I have given it a lot of thought, but it is an area of what I feel is a question of impartiality and objectivity in the role of the Premier. Mr. Picco referred earlier to such areas as the police when they are under investigation, they are suspended from their position or they step aside until the investigation is over and so it goes with the medical profession. Just because there are not any precedents, Mr. Speaker. Precedents are an odd

thing. Every case that goes to the Supreme Court or every case that is in court is an individual case and so it is difficult to come up with precedents. In our case, we elected the Premier. I had a vote on that. In the case of Cabinet, in the event of an allegation, the Premier is able to make that judgment call on the Ministers. In this case, it is only we who make that decision as whether to address this issue of asking the Premier to step down because we elected the Premier directly. I felt a responsibility in that end and hence, I would seek Members' indulgence to vote in favour of the motion, but additionally, Mr. Speaker, I would ask for a recorded vote. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. The Member for Yellowknife Centre is requesting a recorded vote. All those in favour, please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Ootes. Mr. O'Brien. Mr. Krutko.

MR. SPEAKER:

All those opposed, please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Erasmus, Mr. Henry, Mr. Ng, Ms. Thompson, Mr. Antoine, Mr. Kakfwi, Mr. Morin, Mr. Todd, Mr. Arlooktoo, Mr. Dent, Mr. Steen, Mr. Ningark, Mr. Evaloarjuk, Mr. Barnabas, Mr. Enuaraq, Mr. Picco, Mr. Rabesca, Mr. Roland, Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. SPEAKER:

All those abstaining, please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mrs. Groenewegen.

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MR. SPEAKER:

The results are three for, nineteen against, and one abstention. This motion is defeated. Item 17, first reading of bills, Mr. Todd.

ITEM 17: FIRST READING OF BILLS

BILL 5, An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act, No. 2

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh that Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act, No. 2, be read for the first time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 5 has had first reading. First reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Mr. Todd.

ITEM 18: SECOND READING OF BILLS

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to proceed with the second reading of Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act, No. 2.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Member for Keewatin Central is seeking consent to proceed with second reading of Bill 5. Do we have any nays? Mr. Todd, you have consent.

BILL 5, An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act, No. 2

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh that Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act, No. 2, be read for the second time. Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the Financial Administration Act to permit the Minister of Finance to make an indemnity on the recommendation of the Financial Management Board and on behalf of the government. This bill also allows, without a separate enactment, the Minister of Finance and other Ministers to make an indemnity that exceeds \$500,000 or that is not quantified when made, but only in respect to the following:

a) a non-public servant who serves as a member of a board, agency, committee or council at the request of the government;

b) a board, agency, committee or council that performs functions on behalf of the government; and

c) a municipal corporation, settlement corporation or other community government body in respect of environmental liabilities associated with a transfer of assets or infrastructure by the government to the municipal corporation, settlement corporation or other community government body.

The bill also requires the Financial Management Board to review every request for an indemnity in respect of the categories described above to determine if insurance is available and if insurance should be purchased instead of making the indemnity. It also provides that where such an indemnity is proposed, the Minister of Finance will provide notice to Members of the Legislative Assembly before the indemnity is approved by the Financial Management Board.

Finally, this bill amends the definition of indemnity and specifies that both indemnities and guarantees on behalf of the government or a public agency must be in writing.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 5 has had second reading and accordingly the bill stands referred to a committee. Item 19, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters, Bill 15, Adoption Act and Bill 19, An Act to Amend the Dental Profession Act, with Mr. Steen in the Chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

I call the committee to order. For consideration today, we have Bill 15, Adoption Act and Bill 19, An Act to Amend the Dental Profession Act. I would like some guidance as to what the committee would like to do. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would recommend that we proceed with Bill 15, Adoption Act, followed by Bill 19, An Act to Amend the Dental Profession Act.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Does the committee agree that they will ask the Minister, Mr. Ng, responsible for the Adoption Act, the Minister of Health and Social Services if he would like to take the witness chair?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Mr. Chairman, I invite witnesses at the indulgence of the committee. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Mr. Ng, would you like to bring in witnesses as well?

HON. KELVIN NG:

Mr. Chairman, yes. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Does the committee agree the Minister may bring in witnesses?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, would you bring in the witnesses, please. For the record, Mr. Ng, would you please introduce your witnesses?

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HON. KELVIN NG:

Mr. Chairman, to my right, David Ramsden, Deputy Minister and to my left, Shawn Flynn, Legislative Council, Department of Justice. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Welcome to the committee. We left off on Friday with general comments by the

Members on Bill 15. Are there any further general comments on the bill? Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Clause by clause, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, when we broke on Friday, there was some discussion over concerns raised by NTI and the Nunavut Social Development Council. Today, I see there is a new fax that has been sent by Roy Erasmus, as chair in the office of the Standing Committee on Social Programs. Indeed, Roy is not the chair. It is our friend, Mr. Tommy Enuaraq. Aside from that, they still have some concerns with the proposed Adoption Act. The level of comfort that we expected from the Minister and his staff in a letter written to Mr. Anawak as the Interim Commissioner and to the Nunavut Social Development Council. I am wondering if the Minister could update this House at this time on what type of consideration they have given to the discussions that took place last week in regard to the proposed Adoption Act and, hopefully, resting the concerns of NTI and the Nunavut Social Development Council, and now, it would seem the office of the Interim Commissioner with the proposed Adoption Act? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. I note that Mr. Ng, the Minister did not have a chance to respond to any questions or comments put forward last Friday by the Members, so perhaps we could include your question to the Minister. First, I would like to finish with general comments from the Members. Are there any further general comments? I have no further general comments. I will ask the Minister if he would respond to the questions and general comments that were put forward. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, there was, as Members recall, a lot of issues raised in respect to the NTI, NSDC submission that was provided to the standing committee. It is our understanding we do have a copy of a letter the standing committee returned to NTI that outlined their response to the

issues that had been brought forward. I believe I have indicated, and now indicate here again that, as a government, we, as well will respond to NTI and the Nunavut Social Development Council on the concerns they have outlined. We are not, certainly, dismissing those concerns. They are issues they have raised that are legitimate. We believe that the issues that have been raised have been addressed, quite frankly, and some of the amendments have been made to the act as a result of the standing committee process.

On the one most substantive issue they raised about the lack of extensive consultation, I believe that issue, the standing committee and ourselves have addressed it. It has been mentioned by Members that there has been extensive consultation on these bills throughout the Northwest Territories. As you know, it went forward as a major package of family law reform. We have had the Child and Family Services Act, the Family Law Act and the Children's Law Act, that has already gone through the Legislative Assembly process. The Adoption Act was the last of those four major family law bills that had to be completed. It has only been delayed to this point as a result of us trying to meet the committee's wishes in trying to streamline the process of the structure of the act itself to make it clear.

We can say right now that the Adoption Act before you today is heads and tails above the existing act. The current Adoption Act is outdated. The new act allows for greater transparency, accountability, broader participation, better access to information on formal adoptions and takes aboriginal consultation into a serious consideration including the cultural value and practices that have to be respected in trying to reach decisions on placing individuals. There has been a lot of extensive consultation on these bills. As Members had pointed out, yourself, Mr. Chairman, you are a part of the Family Law Reform Committee that had broad representation from all aboriginal groups in breaching the stage of drafting the initial legislation for the changes for the family law. We think that issue is not such a large issue.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, we recognize there are issues out there. We believe we have addressed them and will continue to work with the NTI and NSDC in trying to address any remaining concerns they may have. Ultimately, it is this legislative body that has the moral and legal responsibility up until March 31, 1999 for enacting laws for all of the Northwest Territories. After that date, on April 1, 1999, if the Nunavut government coming into place feels that this Adoption Act or any other act that they

are going to be assuming is not representative of their interests or does not recognize their cultural and traditional values, then they have the opportunity to suspend those laws or to change those laws. Up until then, we have an obligation to try to improve laws in the Northwest Territories for the betterment of all residents regardless of their cultural background and regardless of where they live in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Minister Ng. As followup, do you have questions of a general nature, Mr. Picco?

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Steen, and I thank the Minister for his explanation. I just want some clarification from the Minister and his staff on the bill itself. I understand that for any legislation or any proposed legislation that comes forward in the Nunavut settlement area according to the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement the Nunavut Social Development Council has to be consulted about the process of drafting and formulating that legislation. Is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Minister Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Mr. Chairman, something I failed to mention, in the summer of 1997, the departmental officials met with the Nunavut Social Development Council and their representatives and put on the table the fact that these family law bills are coming forward. I spoke to them on the social

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policy issues in respect to their area of jurisdiction in Nunavut. There were no concerns that were raised at that time, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, usually when groups sit down and talk about legislation or proposed legislation, you really do not get the

magnitude of the legislation until it is actually in the second or third drafting forms. After the summer of 1997, when the department actually sat down with the Nunavut Social Development Council and talked about bringing through some legislation or introducing proposals, did they go back again in October, or did they go back in December? Did they speak to them in February, 1998 and discuss with them, in actuality, what was coming forward in the proposed bills? It would seem that there has been some kind of communication breakdown. Now, I do know for a fact, Mr. Chairman, that in the first week of April, when the bill went to second reading, I was contacted by the office of the Interim Commissioner for copies of the Adoption Act. I remember bringing six copies over to the office of the Interim Commissioner in Iqaluit. I wonder how many actual meetings they had with the Nunavut Social Development Council, as outlined, and the intent of the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement to actually consult other than to advise. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Mr. Chairman, there certainly were opportunities for the Nunavut Social Development Council to participate in the hearing on an ongoing basis. No, we did not go back actively and put forward the legislative proposals that were on the table. What we would say is, we are taking their concerns into consideration, shaping the policy of how we developed the legislation. This is where our concern was, not so much the mechanics of the legislation itself. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. General comments or questions? Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am wondering, because of the land claim, which we all accept and look at as a piece of law because it is constitutionally enshrined in the House of Commons of Canada, the NSDC, I think, is more than just a consultative body within that jurisdiction. Was there any reason that a more official meeting or consultation was not done with the Nunavut Social Development Council, as outlined by NTI and the

office of the Interim Commissioner and by the NSDC themselves? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Nunavut Social Development Council is established under the Land Claim Agreement, and there is a recognition on major policy issues that impact Nunavut that they should be consulted. Their role, in itself, is not as clearly defined in that act as it should be and how you consult with them, how you go about doing that and what mechanism they have to feedback into existing government bureaucracies on proposed legislation. It is fair to say they are an organization that, although they have been in existence, might not have been probably as active as they possibly could have been. Since I have been an MLA they used to come to meet with members of the Nunavut Caucus on an annual basis at least for the first couple of years. After that, it seemed as if it was not as active or those meetings did not take place. The role of the Social Development Council and the new Nunavut government also has to be clarified because right now, how are they going to function? What is their role going to be when the Nunavut government takes office April 1st, as well? What I am trying to say, Mr. Chairman, is that there has been a lot of effort made in trying to get information over there and maybe it has not been as free flowing as it should have been. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. O'Brien, you had your hand up?

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a point of clarification, if this bill were to be passed, when would it take effect?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

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

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as it is written now, it comes into force on the assent of the Commissioner. The plan would be to have it come

into effect this fall, this September, all things being equal. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

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

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as the custom adoptions are in place today, how would this bill impact on custom adoptions?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

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

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this is a totally separate act. It would not impact at all on the Custom Adoption Act that is in place now. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

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

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, given the fact that there is a lot of merit to the bill and given the fact that there is concern from various leaders in Nunavut, I think what we should try to do is amend it in some way that would allow for the new Government of Nunavut to make the decision on their own as to how they want to deal with the bill, whether they want to modify it or leave it as it is. This is not to take away from the intent of the bill and the fact that the Western Territory would be in a situation to utilize the bill as it is put forth now. Mr. Chairman, what I am saying is, I would feel a lot more comfortable if there was an amendment to the bill which would allow the new Government of Nunavut to decide on their own once their government is put in place. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. Perhaps you can direct your question to the legal advisor as to what is required to amend the bill, so that it only comes into effect at a certain time. Would that satisfy your question, Mr. O'Brien?

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MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If we were to delay the bill so that it would take effect April 1, 1999; the question is, is that sufficient or do we add to that, for example, to state that the new Commissioner would then decide whether or not they wanted to empower this bill or not? The question is, what is required? What criteria would we have to put in place to make sure the Nunavut government had the opportunity to deal with the bill as they see fit once the government is put in place after April 1st, 1999? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Mr. O'Brien, the question would not be properly directed to the Minister because it is asking a question over and above anything to do with the act. You are asking a question as to what would be needed in order for it to be addressed strictly by Nunavut, and I think we should direct the question to the legal advisor rather than to the Minister. Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is fine with me. I just assumed the Minister would forward the question off to his legal advisor. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

I will direct the question to our legal advisor, Ms. MacPherson.

LAW CLERK (Ms. MacPherson):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, an amendment would be needed to the Coming in Force Clause of this bill. The amendment would need to provide that the bill would not come into force before April 1st, 1999, and that it would then come into force on Order of the Commissioner. That would give the Nunavut government the ability to decide whether they wish the bill to come into force in the Nunavut territory. I hope that assists the committee, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Ms. MacPherson. Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

I have no more questions, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. I will then recognize Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is discussion from some of the Members. The question is in regard to the kind of consultation that was done. I would like to point out once again that this is a combination of a ten year process that this bill has been in our committee for almost a year. It took us eight months to do the consultation around the territory, east and west. There were hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of mail outs in correspondence on these bills and on the Adoption Act. I would also venture to say, Mr. Chairman, that if, in fact, this Adoption Act, had been part of the four and was ready in time, that this would not be an issue. Now that it is by itself, and timing to division draws near, it is coming under additional scrutiny. I do not have a question, Mr. Chairman. I just want to point that out. I also want to remind Members, as I have heard many, many times in this House by some of my colleagues, that we are elected until April 1st, 1999, and we have an obligation to all the children in the Northwest Territories to bring this act into force, in my opinion. If the Nunavut government, in their wisdom afterward want to repeal or go back to a piece of legislation that is 30 some years old and antiquated and out of date, that would be entirely their choice. We have an obligation to complete this ten year process and bring it to conclusion. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. We did have general comments on Friday from Members. I called for general comments, and there were no more today, and I allowed the Minister to respond. We seem to be in general comments again. Perhaps your comments should be recorded, Mr. Miltenberger. I did not see any specific question to the Minister there, so I will recognize Mr. Krutko. I presume we are going to finish general comments at some time here.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question to the Minister is in regard to the comments he made on several sections of the bill that deals with the whole aboriginal concern and consultation with aboriginal groups. I have gone through the bill, and so far, the only place I see reference to aboriginal organizations is section 7 on page 8. I would like to ask the Minister, where else in other sections of the bill is there involvement

from aboriginal organizations in the decision-making process for the adoption of aboriginal children?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have been told that beside section 7, subsection 7, section 18, subsection 6 and 18, subsection 7, and in there as well where it corresponds to the Child and Family Services Act, and references to the Child and Family Services Act. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the Minister point out what is in the Child Family Services Act, which relates to aboriginal consultation or aboriginal involvement in the decision-making in regard to this act? My concern is that I do not believe there is enough consultation or enough involvement by aboriginal organizations, especially when it comes to adoption of aboriginal children.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it is my understanding that the Child and Family Services Act is where a child is linked to the aboriginal organization that they are identified with. That is where the consultation takes place with that group. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Minister Ng. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there any chance of having that section added to this bill to make it clear and straightforward, so that the whole consultation, the question of aboriginal people, when it comes to aboriginal children is clear and straightforward and that you do not have to jump from one bill to the next, so you just basically reference it in this bill whenever you talk about consultation with aboriginal groups?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Ng.

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HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the reference to the aboriginal groups will be in the regulations and all the manuals that the adoption workers and the child welfare workers use. Although it would not be explicit here, it will be in there. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The concern I have is because the onus is put on the director to consider this one section of the act, but it is up to the individual to decide if they want to use that section or not. Yet, there are a couple of sections regarding the requirement for consent which the director has to take into account, regarding the consent of the child and the parent of the child, allowing them to deal with aboriginal organizations. Again, it is left to the individual. It should be mandatory where they have to consult with aboriginal organizations when they are dealing with aboriginal children. This is something that has to be added to this bill and it has to be clearly identified through regulations. It is great to have them, but when you leave the onus on an individual, it is up to that individual to be notified of such a section or subsection at any time. Can they find somewhere here to strengthen that consultation process with the different organizations?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Minister Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, an individual worker cannot disregard or interpret the manuals or the regulations. The law is the law and it will be outlined in there that in situations where the parent consents, the director shall, they must, consult with the aboriginal organization in those kinds of circumstances. It will be quite explicit, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Has the department met with the different claims organizations to see what is in the different sections of their agreement, either a comprehensive claim agreement regarding the involvement or consultation clause which is in the Gwich'in agreement? I believe it is section 3.22 of the General Provision where it makes reference that the Gwich'in be involved in any political process which affects the Gwich'in. There are also eligibility criteria which talk about adoption. Have you looked at the different sections of the land claim agreements when you dealt with this bill?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we have not looked at the land claims agreements themselves, but we have had extensive discussions with the aboriginal groups on their memberships. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, some of the concerns I have were addressed in the Standing Committee for Social Programs. My question to the honourable Minister is, Mr. Chairman, is this particular bill catered to meet the needs of the Nunavut government that is coming into force after April 1, 1999 or is this bill being adopted by this government to meet the change in demand in the system and to meet the need of the public at the present time? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this bill is to replace an antiquated, existing Adoption Act and the major differences as I have outlined is some of the

more openness in the adoption process, more involvement of aboriginal groups, recognition of cultural values and traditions and trying to determine the child's best interests. No, it is not specific to Nunavut, but it is more specific to have a greater involvement in the process for adoptions, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Ningark. General comments. Are we prepared to move clause by clause? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

We will proceed clause by clause on the review of Bill 15. On the first page, Bill 15, Adoption Act. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Adoption Act. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Page 1, Bill 15, clause 1. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Page 4, Bill 15, clause 2. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Clause 3. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Page 5, clause 4. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Clause 5. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Clause 6. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Page 7, clause 7, Bill 15. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Page 10, clause 8. Agreed?

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SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Clause 9, Bill 15. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Page 11, clause 10, Bill 15. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Clause 11. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Clause 12. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Clause 13, page 12. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Clause 14, page 13. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Clause 15, page 14. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Clause 16. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Clause 17. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Clause 18. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Clause 19, page 17. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Clause 20, page 18. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Clause 21. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Clause 22. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Page 19, clause 23. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Clause 24. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Clause 25. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Page 20, Bill 15, clause 26. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Clause 27. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Page 21, clause 28, Bill 15. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Page 22, clause 29. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Clause 30. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Clause 31. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Clause 32. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Clause 33. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Clause 34, Bill 15. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Page 24, clause 35. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Page 25, clause 36. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Clause 37. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Clause 38. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Clause 39. Agreed?

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SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Clause 40. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Page 27, clause 41, Bill 15. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Page 28, clause 42. Agreed? Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you. On clause 42, private placement, I quote: "no person shall place outside the territories for the purpose of adoption of a child who is ordinarily a resident of the Northwest Territories unless" blah, blah, blah. I am wondering for the Dene, Metis, Inuit and so on who have a vested interest in the case, would every effort be given to notify the Inuit Association, what have you, before there is an application filed with the appropriate person to have a child adopted outside the country? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, yes. It is my understanding that if the placement is with a non-family member, there is, in section 43(6) where the notice is required, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In many cases in the past as we travelled on the consultation trip with the Social Program Committee, there were cases or incidents where people have talked about a family member, a young person being adopted in the country, but down south, where the natural parents or mother was not given the privilege of visiting let alone having to phone that person. What we have learned from the past is, we should make every effort to address what the public has told the committee. I thank the Minister. I understand what the Minister has said. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Clause 42. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Clause 43. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Clause 44. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Clause 45. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Clause 46. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Clause 47. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Clause 48. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Clause 49. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Clause 50. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Clause 51. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Clause 52. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Clause 53. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Clause 54. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Clause 55. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Clause 56. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Clause 57. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Clause 58. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Clause 59. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Clause 60. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Clause 61. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

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CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Clause 62. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Mr. Minister.

Committee Motion 41-13(5): To Amend Clause 62 of Bill 15

HON. KELVIN NG:

Madam Chairperson, I move that clause 62 of Bill 15, be amended by:

(a)striking out a person in subsection

(1) and substituting subject to subject to 1.1, a person; and,

(b)adding the following after subclause (1):

(1.1) where the parent or natural parent or former adoptive parent of a child to be adopted does not consent to an adoption worker contacting a grandparent of the child for the purpose of completing a personal history of the grandparent, under section 54 or 57, the grandparent may not make a request under subsection (1) unless the grandparents submit proof, satisfactory to the registrar, of the parent's consent to the request or the death of the parent.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried. Clause 62, as amended. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Clause 63. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Clause 64. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Clause 65. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Clause 66. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Madam Chairperson, under clause 66, which is the adoptions

under the Predecessor Act, I am wondering, it says under section 66.1 (a), the adoptive person with the consent of the natural parent or the adoptive person about whom the adoptive person is seeking information. If one of the parents is known, but has, for whatever reason, decided to remain anonymous, as on the birth certificate, for example, would that then infringe on that person's right to anonymity.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Could we ask the Member to try and ask the question again? We will pay more attention. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Mr. Picco, could you please rephrase your question, perhaps speak up a little bit. It was difficult to hear you.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under section 66.1(a), it says the adoptive person with the consent of the natural parent, it does not say natural parents. I wonder if one of the parents chose to remain anonymous, would that take away their anonymity?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Ramsden.

MR. RAMSDEN:

Madam Chairperson, sorry for the delay. We are just trying to make sure that we understand the question. What we are trying to do in this act is to create a greater level of transparency for people seeking information. This is why it is so important that the effort we put into it at the time of the adoption to get as much information as possible put on the adoption registry so that the adoptive person, upon reaching the age of majority may have access to it, as long as there is consent to put the information on the registry in the first place. We are still working hard to obtain the consent of people to have information made available at a later date. When we go back to the Predecessor Act, we are trying to make up for some privacy that was put in place, obviously prior to this legislation. There is an effort to use these efforts in a discreet search to obtain the consent to share information. We are not set to release information

without using our best efforts to obtain the consent of that person to release information. We are working, obviously, with a lesser package of information because of what was put in place under the Predecessor Act.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Ramsden. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Maybe I will be just a little bit more clear about my concern here. What it says is that the register may disclose registry information that related to an adoption in accordance with the regulations. I think that is fine. Then it goes on to say that the adoptive person with the consent of the natural parent, it does not say natural parents. My question was, when you have a child you need two parents. What if one parent wanted to remain anonymous? If a relationship breaks down and one parent of an adoptive child does not want to be disclosed, but in this case, the natural parent is allowing it, not natural parents. Is there any reason why you are using the singular form and not the plural form of parent?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Flynn.

MR. FLYNN:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The draft is written with parent referred to in the singular, and in that style, it means both parents, generally. In the context of this particular provision, the word natural parent is modified by the remainder of the paragraph and it would be the natural parent about whom the person is seeking information. If the person

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was seeking information about their mother and if that mother did not consent, then I think the registrar would have a problem disclosing it.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Flynn. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. In the event that we are not able to conclude Bill 15, Adoption Act, by 6:00

p.m., I would like, at this time, to make a motion. I move that we extend sitting hours to conclude Bill 15.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. The motion is in order and is not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried. We will extend sitting hours to conclude the bill that is before us, Bill 15, Adoption Act. We are on clause 66. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Clause 67. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Clause 68. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Clause 69. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Clause 70. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Clause 71. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Clause 72. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Clause 73. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Clause 74. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Clause 75. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Clause 76. Mr. Erasmus.

Committee Motion 42-13(5): To Amend Clause 76 of Bill 15

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I move that clause 76 of Bill 15, be amended by:

(a)renumbering it as subclause 76(1);

(b)striking out "and" at the end of paragraph (z.e) and by adding the following:

(z.e.1)respecting the establishment and maintenance of a register pursuant to subsection (2); and

(c)adding the following after subclause (1):

(2)The Minister shall, in accordance with the regulations, establish and maintain a register of organization.

(3)An organization may request that the Minister place its name, address, phone number and telecopier number in the register and, in accordance

with the regulations, the Minister shall place that information in the register.

(4) After the establishment of the register of organizations, the Minister shall, before making recommendations respecting the enactment of regulations under subsection (1), consult with those organizations regarding the regulations.

(5)For greater certainty, the Minister may also consult with any person or persons the Minister considers appropriate before making recommendations respecting the enactment of regulations under subsection (1).

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you. Your motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Madam Chairperson, I wonder if the mover of the motion could explain why he is adding the following subclauses after (1)?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. You may only speak to the motion. You cannot question the move or the motion. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I was wondering why the mover is moving the motion. If the motion is on the floor, there is no qualification that it is not debatable.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Mr. Picco. Are you challenging the Chair? You have ten-minutes. You can speak to the motion. Mr. Picco. If Mr. Erasmus, the mover of the motion wishes to respond to the comments that you make, that is fine. It is not a forum for a question and answer. To the motion. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The reason I am making this motion is because there is a lot of concern that several things in the act are going to be dictated as to how things are done which will be

dictated by the regulations. We wish to ensure that aboriginal organizations are properly

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consulted, and although we know that the Minister has made his commitment for his term, we do not know what will happen in the future. Perhaps our commitments might be forgotten. We would like a register of organizations to be made and whenever regulations will be changed or enacted, in this instance, those organizations will be consulted. I might add, Madam Chairperson, that we got this idea from the Education Act that was passed recently. It is virtually word for word the same as that act. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Clause 76, as amended. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Clause 77. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Clause 78. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Clause 79. Agreed? Mr. O'Brien.

Committee Motion 43-13(5): To Amend Clause 79 of Bill 15

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Madam Chairperson, I would like to make an amendment to Clause 79, Bill 15 and that it be deleted and the following be substituted: The act or portions of this

act shall come into force on a day or days to be fixed by order the Commissioner, but no such order shall be made before April 1, 1999. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Madam Chair, thank you. This motion has far reaching implications that I think the honourable Member has not taken into consideration before putting it forward. I would just like to articulate on a few of those. One of them, Madam Chairperson, is the fact that this bill is linked directly with the Child and Family Services Act, so any delay in this act in putting it into force would also delay that act or make significant changes required. Secondly, as I have indicated before, it is important to recognize that we have a legislative mandate and a moral responsibility to enact laws up until March 31, 1999. If the Nunavut government chooses to change those laws, then they have that right, post-April 1st, 1999. There are some factors that have to be taken into consideration of this amendment, Madam Chairperson. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. To the motion. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Madam Chairperson, I stated last Friday, when we were discussing this particular act under general comments and the acts, that I would be seeking an amendment to this particular clause as well. I referred to the fact that NTI and the Nunavut Social Development Council or committee were strongly opposed to this act coming into force before April 1, 1999. I appreciate the comments of the Minister. I have listened to him and other Members of the Standing Committee on Social Programs as well as to the amount of effort this government made to ensure these people were actually contacted and had input into the legislation. Madam Chairperson, I have heard nowhere where these people actually saw the draft act as we have seen it today. I have not heard any confirmation from the Minister that these people have actually seen the draft act and had opportunity to comment on each clause or the act in total, even. Therefore, I cannot go along with this act being imposed on people who feel they are going to be greatly impacted regardless of whether this act holds up two or three more other

acts. I am sure these people took that into consideration as well when they suggested that the act be withheld until April 1st. I do not feel I am holding up anything from happening in the western Arctic, in my riding in particular, whether I hold up three or four acts. There seems to be no strong movement to have these family law acts put into place. Madam Chairperson, I do not mind repeating again, these acts have been reviewed for 15 years at the minimum. A few more months are not going to hurt, as far as I am concerned, so I am going to support the motion.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Steen. To the motion. Mr. Arlooktoo.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I will just make a couple of comments against the motion. I have some serious problems in some of the do-nothing attitude that some of us seem to have taken hold of over the last year or so, not just on this issue, but other issues related to division. The trend is rather than us, the duly elected legislators, MLAs, exercising our responsibility and exercising our rights to make laws and to make changes, that when groups make any kind of opposition, the trend is to say, let us not do it, let us delay until April 1st, 1999, or shortly thereafter. To tell you the truth, all the things we have put aside to do after April 1st are really mounting up. Some of them are very major. Some have ramifications on other acts, as this one does. Some have monetary ramifications like the Keewatin resupply thing, for example, where we would have been saving millions of dollars by now, et cetera.

I would suggest to MLAs to vote against this procrastination, I guess. Let us get on with this. The Minister is perfectly right that if we put this law on the books, the first legislature of Nunavut can make the required changes. I have been watching this area of law and the politics about the family law area for more than ten years. The consultations have occurred, the statements have been made, the law has been drafted. Now it has come up to us to pass it and we need to do that. I have seen the letters of concern from the Nunavut Social Development Council and from the Interim Commissioner's office. There is, aside from some minor things, really nothing except to say there has not been enough consultation or it does not reflect enough the Inuit way. To me, although it sounds supportable, it does not mean a whole lot unless the people who are opposing it show me

exactly what the problem with it is. Those will be my comments, Madam Chairperson, that we

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go ahead and exercise our responsibility and do it and suggest to NTI, the Nunavut Social Development Council and Interim Commissioner's office that we work together over the next year to make improvements so that it is even better in a year's time. We are not pushing them aside, but we are saying we have to take this next step to go onto the next one after that. That would be my comment, Madam Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. To the motion. I have Mr. Ningark and Mr. Erasmus.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Madam Chairperson, come April 1, 1999, we will have an operating, functioning government. It is imminent. We will have a government of the Nunavut area sitting in the legislature and a public government in the western Arctic designing and drafting for Nunavut. I do not feel comfortable in that regard. Once Nunavut is functioning, it will be for the functioning government. It will be able to adopt this as a whole, perhaps amended or will draft a new legislation tailored for Nunavut. At this time, I feel we should, for the sake of the public and children, enact this legislation at this time, and I would urge my colleagues to support Bill 15. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Mr. Erasmus, to the motion.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Some of this may have been spurred along by the submission from NTI and the Nunavut Social Development Council which points out that they have a right to participate in the development of social policies for Nunavut. It also indicates that the Adoption Act, if it is passed, be amended so it does not come into force until April 1st, 1999. Madam Chairperson, the Nunavut Social Development Council and NTI clearly have a role and responsibility to participate in developing appropriate legislation for Nunavut. Over the next few months, work will be underway to identify those Northwest Territories statutes that must be amended because of

division. Under the amendments to the Nunavut Act currently before federal parliament, it will be possible to make amendments to legislation that apply differently in Nunavut and in the new Western Territory.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is defeated. Clause 79. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Bill 15, Adoption Act, preamble. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Bill as a whole. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

As amended. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Ng. Thank you, Mr. Ramsden and Mr. Flynn. Does the committee agree that Bill 15 is now ready for third reading as amended? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Bill 15, is now ready for third reading as amended.

--Applause

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

I will now rise and report progress. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The House will come back to order. Good evening. We are on Item 20, report of committee of the whole. Mrs. Groenewegen.

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 15, Adoption Act and would like to report progress with two motions being adopted and that Bill 15, Adoption Act is ready for third reading as amended. Mr. Speaker, I move that report of committee of the whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 21: THIRD READING OF BILLS

BILL 18-13(5): Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1998-99

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that Bill 18, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1998-99 be read for the third time. Thank you.

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MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Your motion is carried. Bill 18 has had third reading. 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 Western Caucus immediately after adjournment tonight. Committee meetings for tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. of the

Standing Committee on Infrastructure, 11:00 a.m. of the Ordinary Members' Caucus and 12:00 noon of the Management and Services Board.

Orders of the day for Tuesday, June 2, 1998:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
 - 19-13(5), Establishment of Northwest Territories Electoral Boundaries Commission
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 19, An Act to Amend the Dental Profession Act
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
 - Bill 15, Adoption Act

22. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. This House stands adjourned to Tuesday, June 2, 1998, at 1:30 p.m.

--ADJOURNMENT